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Gary Paul Johnston

On the Cover

H&K once again succeeds, this time producing a marvelous 21st Century assault carbine for military, law enforcement and civilian use.

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"For The Boys" would have been a great title for this year's festivities, which featured new and improved hardware galore.

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OKC: FROM BANK ROBBERS TO BOMBERS? by J.D. Cash and Roger Charles

It would be interesting to see if the FBI's cached trove of McVeigh documents contains further information about his links to the "Midwest Bank Bandits," one of whom was a victim of a mighty convenient "suicide."

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courtesy Newscom/Serbian TV/Rt

COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Kevin Watson

Cop Group Demands Spy Camera Removal

As we go to press, Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown is "on vacation" in Israel. SOF agrees 100% with opposing this extension of the power of "Big Brother" and is, therefore, happy to publish the following, courtesy of The Law Enforcement Alliance of America (LEAA).

WASHINGTON, July 16 — The Law Enforcement Alliance of America (LEAA) renewed its demand for the immediate removal of high-tech spy camera that scan the public and put all citizens through a digital line-up. "These cameras have generated harsh scrutiny from all over the country for their 'Big Brother' violation of privacy," said LEAA Executive Director Jim Fotis. "Big Brother is bad for law enforcement, and these spy cameras are a violation of the very Constitution that law enforcement officers are sworn to uphold."

Since LEAA first called for the cameras' removal and exposed how their use violates the privacy policy of the camera manufacturer, the heat has been turned up on the big brother scheme. House Majority Leader, Dick Armey, in a joint statement with the ACLU, expressed strong concern over the violation of every American's right to privacy. Armey has instructed the GAO to investigate federal funding of the spy camera technology and will be asking the relevant House committees to hold hearings on the government use of such high-tech surveillance technology.

In addition to the 36 cameras currently used in Tampa, the city of Virginia Beach is preparing to install

similar "Big Brother" spy cameras. Further, the state of Colorado has announced plans to use the facial recognition software that powers the cameras to scan and store the faces of every Colorado driver.

In renewing their call for the removal of the Tampa spy cameras, LEAA announced that it will be making an official request to the Tampa City Council, the Virginia Beach City Council and the state of Colorado for an immediate suspension of the involuntary biometric imaging of American citizens.

LEAA Executive Director Jim Fotis will also be meeting with Congressional leaders to pursue federal legislation restricting the use of the such intrusive surveillance technologies. Earlier this year, LEAA met with Attorney General Ashcroft to discuss technology related privacy concerns. Fotis added, "We will be talking to the Attorney General about these Tampa spy cameras as we seek federal intervention to stop their use."

With more than 65,000 members and supporters, the Law Enforcement Alliance of America is the nation's largest coalition of law enforcement professionals, crime victims and concerned citizens dedicated to making America safer.

For information, please call Kevin Watson at 703-847-2677; or check LEAA's website: <http://www.leaa.org>. To schedule an interview with Mr. Fotis, please phone LEAA at 1.800.766.8578. (Reprinted with permission of the LEAA, 7700 Leesburg Pike, Suite 421, Falls Church, VA 22043.) ✕

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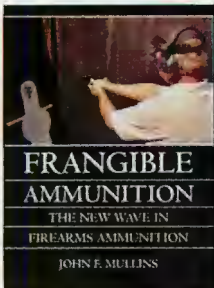


VIDEO

SAFE AT HOME

A Thinking Man's Guide to Home Defense with Louis Awerbuck

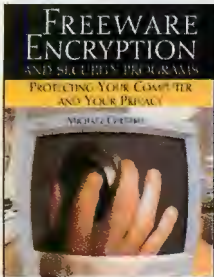
Let firearms and security expert Louis Awerbuck give you the tactical edge in this home defense video that shows you how to set up a room in your home that will keep your family safe, proper weapon selection for indoor environments, use of reflection and shadow, and more. For information purposes only. Videotapes are nonreturnable. Defective tapes will be replaced. Color, approx. 55 min. #10014470 \$39.95



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The New Wave in Firearms Ammunition by John Mullins

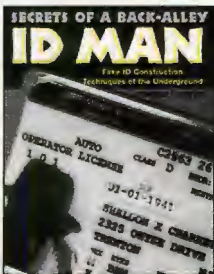
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SECRETS OF A BACK-ALLEY ID MAN

Fake ID Construction Techniques of the Underground by Sheldon Charrett

Discover how crafty ID makers stay one step ahead of Big Brother and turn out driver's licenses, birth certificates and other "secure" documents. Includes instructions on holograms, repetitive lettering, seals, embossings, fonts, inks, paper and much more. For academic study only. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, photos, illus., 96 pp. #10014437 \$20.00



HOW TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL CON ARTIST

by Dennis M. Marlock

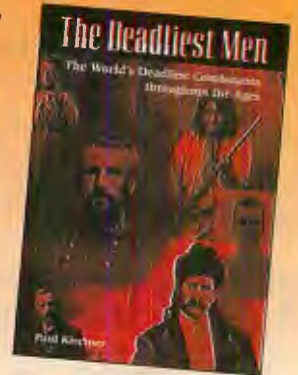
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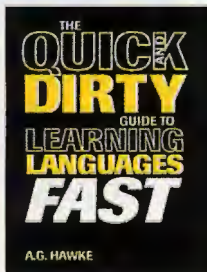
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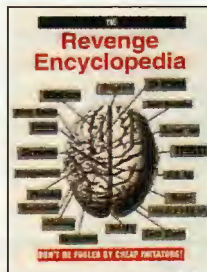


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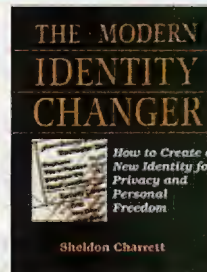
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Bulletin Board

Investigative Reporter Seeks Help Re: DynCorp

Former employees of DynCorp with information that may be of interest in fleshing out an intensive investigative report on DynCorp operations are encouraged to contact *SOF* Managing Editor Dwight Swift at 303-449-3750, ext. 301; by e-mail to dwight@sofmag.com or by snail mail in care of *Soldier Of Fortune Magazine*, 5735 Arapahoe Ave., Suite A-5, Boulder, CO 80303.

K-Mart's Red Light Special

K-Mart, heretofore one of the nation's largest firearms retailers, has announced it is discontinuing the sale of "handgun" ammunition. Sales of handgun ammunition will cease as existing stocks are sold off the shelves. K-Mart competitor Wal-Mart Corporation has indicated it has no such plans to discontinuing ammunition sales.

Should you feel like letting K-Mart know how you feel, their HQ phone is 248-463-1000; mail address is K-Mart Resource Center, 3100 West Big Beaver Rd., Troy, MI 48084.

Wonder what the giants at corporate HQ are going to do over calibers that are common to both handguns and long arms (.22, .357, .44-40, .38-40, etc. etc.).

Firebase Las Vegas Warriors' Reunion

Wednesday, 12 September through Saturday, 15 September 2001 in Las Vegas will see a reunion and series of events with a familiar ring: machine gun shoot in the desert, pool-side parties, official dinner, charity auction, T-shirt, wining/dining/camaraderie and good times renewing acquaintances and telling war stories. The Warriors' Reunion will be held at the Palace Station Hotel and registration is only \$35 before 7 September. More information on this get-together is available from Sue Smither, 3890 W. Maulding Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89139-8142; phone: 702-269-1610; fax: 702-269-1842; e-mail NAILS@LVDI.NET; or from "Hippy" Harmon 440-967-1033.

(Although this is not an SOF-sponsored event, we wish them well.)

Pentagon Vulnerable to Big Hack Attack

According to the Defense Science Board, the U.S. military cannot defend itself against a concerted computer attack by a world military power. The civilian DSB, which advises SecDef on scientific, technical and manufacturing matters, noted in a voluminous report that some 20 countries already



David M. Fortier

Among the rare and wonderful goodies on display at the NRA Convention in Kansas City were the 25th Anniversary Edition Soldier Of Fortune commemorative M1911 pistols from Investment Arms, Inc., examined here by SOF Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown. They are a fitting tribute beautifully made. Further information on these is available from Investment Arms toll-free at 888-708-4867.

have or are developing the ability to mount serious attacks on other countries: China has already state its intention to use cyber attacks as an asymmetric response to any conflict with the United States.

And the number of unauthorized intrusions into the Pentagon's information systems is rising dramatically. The Pentagon detected about 30,000 suspicious events on its information networks in 2000, up from 22,000 in 1999 — and only 6,000 in 1998. Army officials have stated they expect some 25,000 to 30,000 such events in 2001.

Over the past four years, hackers working on behalf of the national Security Agency at Ft. Meade, Md., have conducted nearly 40 assaults on Pentagon computer networks. Using computer and telecommunications networks to deliver computer viruses or other commands designed to penetrate, disrupt or destroy comms: 90% of the attacks were undetected by Pentagon network operators, even though the teams used hacking tools familiar to the operators.

DSB Chairman William Schneider told *Defense News* that, "the Pentagon is susceptible to external attacks, as well as from the software it uses, which is virtually impossible to be confident about because of vulnerabilities built into its computer code."



CDP™ (Custom Defense Package) pistols are built in the Kimber Custom Shop. They include features found only on custom-made defense pistols like carry bevel treatment, checkered front strap and Meproflight® Tritium night sights. The full size Custom CDP and the Ultra CDP with three-inch barrel are pictured. All four CDP models are chambered in .45 ACP.

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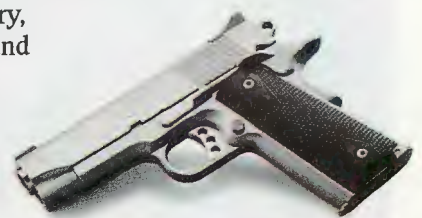
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You Don't Want Their FAX ... They Don't Want Your Facts

British scam artist "21st Century Faxes, Ltd." has designs on your wallet. Their MO is to gin up phony "polls" on topics of intense, polarized interest — such as gun control — and send them, apparently to any USA fax number they can locate. The fine print at the bottom of their fax tells you that responding to their 900 FAX number will cost you \$2.95 a minute, but few impassioned readers on either side of controversial issues will notice that: wanting to vent their spleen or support one side or another of a cause, they will promptly answer the idiotically-simple "poll" and FAX it back ... and \$2.95 for the coffers of "21st Century Faxes, Ltd." Will appear on their next telephone bill.

Don't get scammed: if you receive such an unsolicited FAX, better to complain to the FTC @ 202-326-2000, or the FCC @ 202-418-0200.

Russians Beat The Repo Man

Two Russian planes, an Su-30 fighter and a MiG-AT trainer, streaked into the sky toward Russia from LeBourget air field, site of the Paris Air Show, steps ahead of a French Justice Ministry bailiff and a lawyer for the Swiss trading company Noga last 22 June. Geneva-based Noga, who is trying to collect some \$495 million is it owed by the Russian government, was represented by their attorney Antoine Chatain and had a seizure order for the planes, according to Rosaviakosmos spokesman Sergei Gorbunov.

Some years back, a U.S. travel agency owed money by the

Castro Cuban government won a court order and had a Cuban airliner seized in Florida to satisfy the debt.

D-Day Museum's "Invasions in the Pacific"

If you or a family member fought in the Pacific in WW II, you don't want to miss the "D-Day Invasions in the Pacific" events that will coincide with the National D-Day Museum's grand opening for its Pacific Exhibit in New Orleans this coming December 7th. Public events will include port visits by the U.S.S. *Iwo Jima*, U.S.C.G. *Munro*, M.V. *Cape Kennedy* and the S.S. *American Victory*; Pacific Victory Parade and Aerial Review; veterans gatherings, re-enactments, Pacific War film festival, USO Dance.

The National D-Day Museum is a museum of the World War II years, celebrating the American spirit, the teamwork, optimism, courage and sacrifice of the men and women who won the war, and promotes the exploration and expressions of these values by future generations.

For more information about the National D-Day Museum, call 504-527-6012; or visit their website at www.ddaymuseum.org.

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The Power of Performance

Jim Bowie Comes Home To Texas

The only known portrait of frontier and Alamo hero Jim Bowie has been purchased at a San Francisco auction by the State of Texas. Attributed to American artist George Peter Alexander, the 28x35-inch painting brought \$321,875 at Butterfields Auctioneers. Texas Governor Rick Perry called the purchase "a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity." Also sold were an eagle-head French officer's sword that once belonged to Bowie, and a silver-mounted flintlock rifle owned by Jim Bowie's brother, Rezin. Jim Bowie died at the Alamo on 6 March 1836, when troops lead by Mexican Gen. Antonio Santa Anna overran the Franciscan mission where Bowie and 168 other defenders had made a last stand.

Couldn't They Use "Bolo Mausers?"

Cops in the Philippine province of Cebu who can't shoot straight will end up carrying bolos. Cebu Provincial Police Office Director Jose Salvacion said that policemen who cannot qualify with their handguns will have their handguns taken away and be issued bolo machetes. Their firearms will then be distributed among the 317 CPPO personnel who have no weapon.

Salvacion and his staff came up with the plan after a policeman in Tabogon failed to disable a druggie who stole two

Armalite rifles from the police station, because the officer in charge had no confidence in his ability to disable the thief with his service revolver. Four people were subsequently wounded. "He did not have the confidence to tell the suspect to stop because he was not confident with his revolver," noted Salvacion. "I'm sure some policemen have not had the opportunity to fire their firearms for several years already," he said.

The Gunslinger's Gazette

Combat pistol shooters should send a stamp to *The Gunslinger's Gazette*, 3650 Wadsworth Blvd., Wheatridge, CO 80033 for a sample copy of a new newsletter that is sure to excite a high level of interest among handgunners. The honchos there are sponsors of pistol matches with a new flavor and approach, and they unabashedly encourage new — even heretical — ideas. They also may be reached by phone at 303-456-4545; or via e-mail at snipermttone@aol.com.

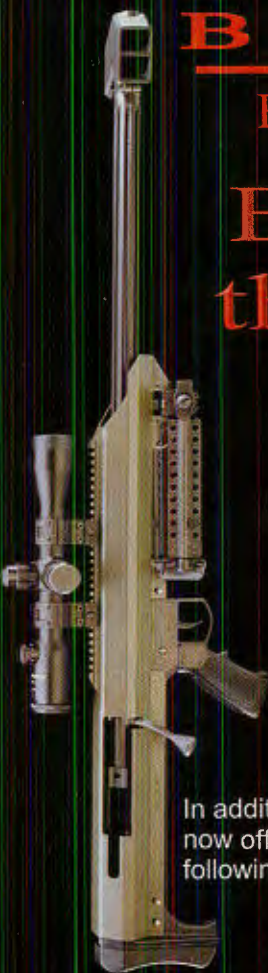
Mexico to Strengthen Its Southern Border

According to a Mexican Interior Department spokesman, Mexico plans to spend some \$10 million to beef up its 750-mile border with Guatemala and Belize. Hector Villarreal told reporters his government is studying options for modernizing checkpoints and reinforcing immigration control, in an attempt to stem the tide of illegal drugs and immigrants headed to the United States, and illegal guns going into Mexico's Chiapas region. Among options being studied are an increased military and police presence.

60 Years Of The CAP

The annual conference of the Civil Air Patrol held in Cincinnati on 18 August celebrated its 60 years of service to the nation, recognizing its founding fathers and charter member who, one week before Pearl Harbor, founded the volunteer organization that patrolled the coasts, flew courier routes and performed other services in support of government defense activities. CAP pioneers honored included founder and aviation writer Gill Robb Wilson, NYC Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, Jersey Governor Charles Edison, Lt. Gen. Henry H. Arnold, Florida Defense Force's "Ike" Vermilya, publishers Thomas Beck and Guy P. Gannett, WWI ace Reed Landis, and Maj. Gen. John F. Curry.

Today, more than 60,000 CAP volunteers continue the tradition of service through emergency services, aerospace education and cadet programs. Further information on CAP programs is available from CAP National HQ, 105 S. Hansell ST., Bldg 714, Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6332; phone: 334-953-5320; or via e-mail: pa@caphq.gov.



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Flak



Complete The Mission

This past 4th of July 2001, let us hope we did not forget a special group of unsung heroes who not only helped keep this nation free, but whose sacrifices are not fully understood or adequately recognized by Americans who benefited from their heroism more than they will ever realize. I refer to the estimated 9,000+ unrepatriated U.S. POWs of all 20th century wars and conflicts in which communist powers were either our adversaries, or in the case of WWII, our nominal ally.

I am hopeful that we have a new administration that will have the courage and creativity within its policy framework to provide the leadership that will thoughtfully, competently, professionally, and fully, resolve the mysteries that surround the covert communist political and intelligence operations that affected this unique cadre of American veterans.

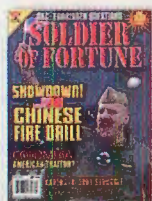
To reveal what happened in the past will protect future generations of American servicemen and women from meeting similar fates.

Honor The Dead And Missing. Complete The Mission.

A salute to all veterans, military retirees, active duty personnel, and civilian patriots on this fine day.

CDR Chip Beck, USNR (Ret.), CIA (Ret.)

Fighter Flubs?



In the July 2001 issue of *Soldier Of Fortune*, Colonel Brown in the "Command Guidance" column states, that the Chinese "F-8" fighter that struck our U.S. Navy EP-3E recon plane was "state of the art." The Chinese "F-8" fighter is nothing more than a Chinese copy of the MiG-21

fighter, which entered service with the Soviet Air Force in 1956!!! Also in the same issue, there is a photograph on page 27 of a Japanese float plane that the caption calls a "Rufe." It is in fact a "Jake."

I haven't missed an issue of *Soldier Of Fortune* since the summer of 1975 (Issue No. 1) and the mistakes have been very few.

Thank you very much,

Jeff Leatherland
Lorton, Virginia

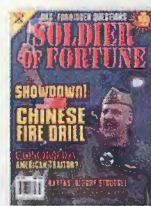
Good catch on the Jake: Our kudos to you and all the other sharp-eyed readers who wrote us on that. However, we're going to have to quibble with you about the MiG-21/F-8. Although the first E-5 aerodynamic prototype flew in 1956, the first version to see appreciable production was the MiG-21F, and although the MiG-21 series went on to become the most widely distributed fighter in the world and is still flying and being upgraded, it was never issued to the Soviets as early as 1956. It was produced in Czechoslovakia, and in China as the J-7 (F-7). The F-8, however, has not a lot in common with the MiG-21. Like all newer developments the F-8 has borrowed from designs that preceded it, but it borrowed more from the MiG-23 than the 21. The MiG-21 is a single-engine plane, the F-8 a twin-engine, etc. Thus it is a great deal more than a MiG-21, and although it would not compare favorably with the leading edge of Western fighter development, it is "state of the art" as far as Chinese production goes.

they are still available?

Timothy G. Hudson
Riverdale, Utah

The semi BAR is made by Ohio Ordnance Works, Dept. SOF, Box 687, 310 Park Dr., Chardon, OH; phone: 216-285-3481; fax: 214-286-8571. It was covered in the January 1997 issue of SOF.

Question Answered



Just completed reading Woody Woodring's article in "I Was There" (July 2001). Excellent job and long awaited by many of us who have been wondering about insider

details for decades.

Mr. Woodring has snuffed out, in my mind, a lingering question, to wit: Was Patton whacked by paranoid power brokers back in the States who perceived him as a threat, and as someone who might eventually launch us into WWII?

Many thanks and kudos to Mr. Woodring.

Maurie Hendrickson
Beaverton, Oregon

Con Air, Factory, Mine, Farm, Logging, Fishing, Etc.?

I hope you and yours are not condoning the changes in the Federal Prison Industries Act. While these changes will allow civilian manufacturers to compete and replace prison work so constituents (and politicians) can make both the products and the profits, it falls flat against rehab training, work training, and returning prisoners to society as competent, productive workers — not better muscled, rested, legal-minded criminals.

I believe every prisoner in the sys-

Buying A BAR



Some years ago, I saw advertised in various gun magazines a semi-only version of the WWII BAR. Could you please direct me where I may obtain one, if

tem should work, and produce a useful product as a form of restitution to society, particularly the first-time prisoner. First timers should be required to obtain a GED, physiological care, and a work ethic before even being eligible for parole. Cost money? You bet, but the alternative is ridiculous. With recidivism 60 to 90%, obviously warehousing prisoners does not work. For those who wish to return again to the prison system, lock them up for the full term and not a day of parole. F**k 'em.

All nonviolent prisoners should spend the last two years in half-way work projects. Every state and federal road crew, construction crew, planning crew should have inmates as an integral part of its work force learning a trade, not sitting on their butts or working out in the law library. Prisoners should be producing the equipment and parts necessary to manufacture, produce and operate prisons and jails including food and beverage products. Call it "home improvement" training. State and federal workers should have prisoner trainees as an integral part of public employment. Make prisoners work just like the rest of us if they want out early.

Cost civilian jobs and the friends of the politicians and the politicians their profits? You bet. But which do we, and

you, want: Someone only trained to continue to commit crimes because they know no better or someone who can get out and get a job upon which they can live, not live better in prison.

Push for something that will save us money in the long run. At \$35,000 a prisoner per year and a prison population bigger than some small countries our present system damn sure does not work.

Owen Jackson

Rawlins, Wyoming

(no, I am not connected with the town's biggest industry, the WSP)

10-13 In Progress



I have rarely read an article as substantive and salient as that by Fred Reed in your August 2001 issue. In fact the day after I read Mr. Reed's article, the

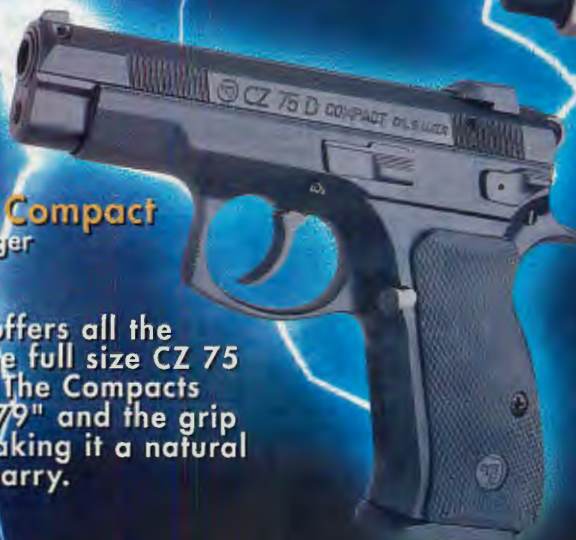
Washington Post published a four-part series utterly disparaging the Prince Georges County Police Department. Being a law enforcement officer in the DC Metropolitan area, I have seen firsthand

the mood shift among law enforcement officers (and Prince Georges County [MD] in particular) that has allowed for many criminals to now operate with ever-increasing impunity.

States Attorney Jack Johnson is the specific reason I did not move to Prince Georges County. He is the reason I avoid shopping or even stopping for gas in Prince Georges County. In fact, if I did not have to drive through Prince Georges County on my way to work, I would probably never be within the boundaries of that county. Because I for one am afraid of Jack Johnson and his crusade against the police, and most especially that I perceive to be his crusade against white police.

In my opinion (am I still entitled to that?), Jack Johnson has decided that the rights of the criminal few to plunder and ravage society at will, exceed that of the law-abiding citizen to live in peace and not be murdered by unrestrained thugs. Johnson is at the forefront of the culture of no personal responsibility and no personal accountability that is pervasive in Prince Georges County — the culture that professes to care about protecting the innocent and weak, while simultaneously refusing to hold criminal thugs accountable for their actions. And all the while blaming the police for the ills of

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society. Victimization is the buzzword in all that Jack Jackson says and does. Jack Jackson has offered up the entire Prince Georges County Police Department as his sacrificial lamb, with a special emphasis on white police officers. In the spirit of Mr. Reed's article, I cannot imagine a situation in which I would stop to take law enforcement action in Prince Georges County. Because I know that, regardless of the justification for my actions, Jack Jackson will twist the fact that I am a white law enforcement officer into an excuse to indict me.

I cannot imagine why anybody, black or white (but especially white), would want to become a police officer in the 21st century.

Name Withheld

We Go And See

I just finished reading Al J. Venter's article in the August 2001 SOF. I was impressed that you could find someone willing to go and report on the situation in that region. I was also somewhat surprised to see on page 72 the question, "Why has so very little of this appeared in the American press?" That's easy! The

answer is in the same issue on page 51 (Fred Reed's "Police; Race and the Fourth Estate," where it is said, "let them eat each other." Americans — in general — are tired of watching their sons die in Third World countries as we try to "police the world" — all we ever get for our efforts is film footage of downed pilots' bodies being dragged through the streets by mobs of people (whom we are trying to save) who claim the West is the "Great Satan."

Why should we help out? They can offer nothing but a great opportunity to get our people killed, make fools of ourselves in the international scene, and make enemies with people who can only fight using terrorist tactics, because they have no real money. Seems like a no-win situation: The average American cannot fathom why we are targets for various "holy wars." Do you think we have a better chance understanding African tribal conflicts, and the national policies they tend to result in?

Joe Takagi

Some American aid programs, such as the Marshall Plan in Europe after WWII, have worked so well, we'd like

to think we can fix everything for everybody. Or at least we should try. Unfortunately, however, we're not always as smart or capable as the task demands — and the results are not good. Maybe sometimes it's just best to take care of our own first.

Fight For Life



The article "Fight for Life" in the September issue I think should bring concern to the pro-gun population. I myself am a former Marine, gun owner, and a subscriber to *Soldier Of Fortune*.

I do not think this article helps the anti-gun world see our point of view. Most people would blame the victim on this one. Charles Harris seems to have invited disaster on himself. In fact, I do not believe Harris is telling the whole story; if I am wrong I am sorry. His story is just not logical to me.



Jason Winter
Muncie, Indiana ✕

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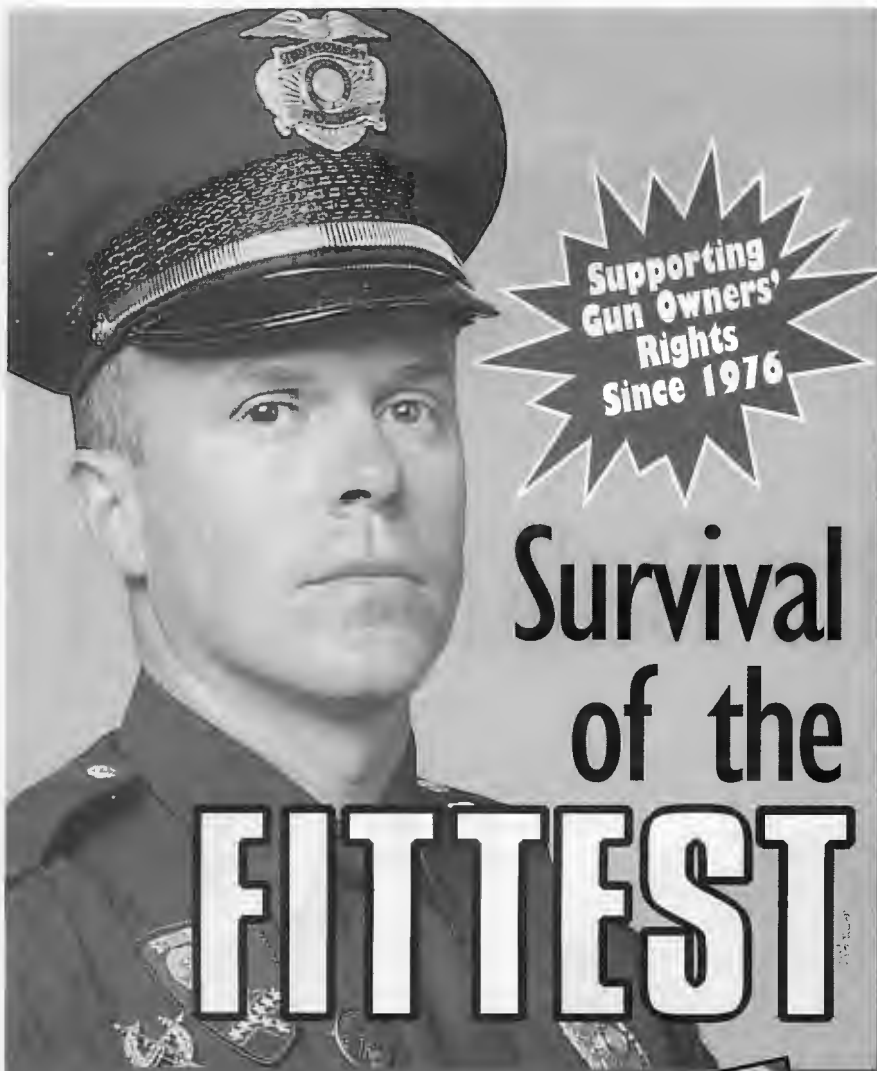
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SOF



I Was There

BY NICK DODICH

War In The Balkans 101

The morning of 23 Dec 95 was typical of a winter morning in Tomislavgrad BiH. The sky was overcast and the weather was cold. Traffic was getting congested on this Saturday as there is only one main street through town. At 0800 I left the private residence where I was staying in Tomislavgrad to meet Brigadier General Zeljko Glasnovic, who on the previous day had invited me as a correspondent to accompany his Croatian delegation to the first IFOR meeting of Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian military officers to discuss the implementation process. Since the HVO had no advance notice about correspondents being present at the conference compound, I was told to keep a low profile and evaluate the situation once we arrived there. I was to check with the British officers concerning what would be the protocol for me to follow.

About 0815 Glasnovic, his driver, Josip Papic, and I left Tomislavgrad in his Mercedes 4WD 2-door Jeep-like vehicle which had an automatic transmission. Glasnovic and Josip were in the front seats and were carrying sidearms. On the rear seat to my left was a Croatian-made UZI submachine gun. As we traveled east we went through the village of Suica after which we traveled on to liberated Kupres which was heavily damaged. A mosque was damaged and being repaired. A Serbian church was under construction and three Croatian Catholic churches were blown-up into a pile of rubble. Services were now held in a prefabricated building.

Going north of Kupres showed evidence of much fighting. All the villages between Kupres and Sipovo were destroyed as the Serbs retreated.

Entering Sipovo revealed a once-beautiful city nestled on attractive rolling hills and valleys but most of the houses and buildings were destroyed. The only signs of life were a few Muslims evacuating the city taking with them what posses-



Major General Michael Jackson (left) and Brigadier General Zeljko Glasnovic (far right) following the initial IFOR meeting.

sions and livestock they could load onto their cars, tractors and trailers. Sipovo and Mrkonjic Grad were captured by Croatian forces and are reluctantly being turned over to the Serbs as part of the Paris peace accord. The HVO had a headquarters here and its staff was the only other sign of life and activity. After a brief visit to the HQ it was on to Mrkonjic Grad, our final destination.

The drive to Mrkonjic Grad revealed the same monotonous destruction throughout the countryside with no visible human activity. Finally, we neared the British Army compound where the IFOR conference was to be held. It was less than 5 km. outside of Mrkonjic Grad on the left bifurcation of the road going north of the city. The compound was on the left side of the road. It was covered with asphalt and had two buildings on it and two nearby tents. One was a very large conference tent that provided separate rooms for the three warring factions where they could have discussions in priva-

cy. The other was a mess tent. There were several British military vehicles parked near the road. One warrior APC was parked at the entrance to the compound. On the other side of the road, on the shoulder, were parked two additional APCs. Their vehicles had their turrets rotating 360 most of the time for observation purposes.

Our HVO jeep was the first vehicle to arrive at 1100. As we entered the compound the sight of the British strategy confounded me initially. There were almost 30 British soldiers in full battle dress positioned on the periphery of the compound. They had their loaded SA-80 assault rifles at-the-ready in the event of any skirmish by any of the warring factions.

Glasnovic and I got out, and Josip stayed in the vehicle. Glasnovic went to the British command to get briefed. I went to a gathering of officers and presented my credentials. The British press officer very graciously said he was glad to have a member of *Soldier Of Fortune* there. I was surprised how few of the press were there. There was a BBC crew, a Reuters crew and me. There were several Bosnian translators for the BBC and Reuters crew. As we were waiting for all the participating factions to arrive I circulated among the British soldiers exchanging small talk and some sick, but clever, jokes. As I was talking with a British officer, he interrupted and said, "That looks like Glasnovic." I said, "That is Glasnovic, Zeljko Glasnovic." He added, "He is the only one we can talk to in Bosnia." I told him that Glasnovic was a Canadian citizen of Croatian parentage and understands the civilized ways of the west. The mood was relaxed until the other warring factions arrived.

The next group to arrive was the HVO from the Vitez Corps headed by Brigadier General Dragicevic. He was accompanied by an armed guard that exited their vehicles in

a hurried manner, bristling with AK-47s and in a determined attitude of protecting their contingent. When our Tomislavgrad contingent arrived there were only three of us. Shortly afterwards the Bosnian Muslim contingent arrived. Not knowing if the Serbian contingent had arrived the Muslim guards also left their vehicles in a rapid bristling fashion with assault rifles at-the-ready forming a ring of protection around General Alagic, of the 7th Corp, and General Dudakovic, of the 5th Corp.

After observing the Croatian and Muslim forces putting on this demonstration I thought that as soon as the Serbs arrived this would have all the ingredients of a Balkan version of a "Shootout at the O.K. Corral" since the Croats and Muslims have an intense dislike, if not hatred, of the Serbian hardliners. Now the British soldiers were more concerned and attentive. We were all waiting for the Serbian contingent to arrive. I figured that after the Serbs arrive and spontaneous shooting erupts I would quickly fall to the ground, protect myself as best as I could and wait for the shooting to stop. It shouldn't take more than a few seconds for this potential skirmish to end.

Finally the Serb contingent arrived. The British, Croats and Muslims were all prepared for what might happen. The Serbs arrived in one mid-sized automobile. They had no guards with assault rifles. General Palic led their delegation. When the Serbs saw the Croats and Muslims armed to the hilt they appeared very apprehensive. The officers left their car and went into the conference tent.

As the IFOR meeting was going on inside the tent. I circu-

Continued on page 72

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No man-made system is absolutely foolproof, but the Sensor Safe is as good as it gets. For more information contact: Kleine Welt Trading, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 231, Glencoe, IL 60022-0231; phone: 847-835-9964; or check them out on the web at www.BestGunSafe.com.

Wolf-Hook

With "peacekeeping" missions in very un-peaceful environments becoming more common, the necessity of keeping the battle rifle "peacefully" slung but instantly deployable is a relatively new requirement. It is bad public relations for the troop to keep his weapon at port arms, and at "sling arms" it is less than instantly

ready to shoot. Various shoulder slings have addressed this new requirement, but even these are less than handy and most require two hands to dismount the weapon to shoot. And, although bayonet drill is a fairly remote likelihood in today's battlefields or peacekeeping missions, there is often need to have the weapon either totally free or, conversely, firmly attached to the troop and both his hands free. That's a



lot to ask from a simple rifle sling, and so far we've seen but one that meets all these conflicting requirements: the Wolf-Hook from Spec-Ops Brands.

They describe it as a "lanyard for attaching weapons to load-bearing harness systems," and that is a good description. The web "lanyard" attaches to the butt of the weapon, and to the LBE harness. In use, the weapon is effectively at "sling arms," but instantly deployable with the firing hand at the grip. However, both hands can be off the weapon if need be, and it is still attached to the LBE harness. If it is necessary to detach the weapon from the LBE/trooper, that is instantly accomplished via the adjustable quick-release on the strap. Super light-weight, and a simple answer to a complex problem, with no extra webbing to become tangled in weapon-mounted systems. The 101st ABN just bought them for their troopers in Bosnia: a bazillion Screamin' Eagles can't be wrong!

Available at your PX/BX or quality outdoor store. For the dealer nearest you contact: Best Made Designs, Dept. SOF, 1601 W. 15th St., Monahans, TX 79756; phone: 866-SPEC-OPS. ☒

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BY BILL BAGWELL

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You see them all the time. Little clips hanging on the edge of a guy's hip pocket, or in the rear corner of his pocket on his jeans. Maybe a dogtag chain around a guy's neck — but it is not attached to a dogtag under his shirt. It's more likely that there is a little kydex pancake under there holding a small folding knife, out of sight, and to most people, out of mind. The fact is lots of people, men and women alike are discretely carrying knives for their own personal protection these days.

From my perspective, this is all well and good. Self-preservation should be at the core of each of our thought processes. Whether it is to defend yourself against a direct personal attack, or to free yourself or someone else from an accident and a stuck or jammed seatbelt, a knife can be both a comfort and in an extreme circumstance, a life-saving tool to have at hand.

When you make the conscious decision to carry a knife on a daily basis you will have to make a couple of choices based on your perception of the perils you may be called upon to face. You should then select the knife that will give you a life-saving advantage in your worst-case scenario. Most people don't do it this way. Instead, they decide that they will begin to carry a knife and buy the meanest or best-looking folder that they can hide in their pocket and think that they have solved their problem. In the vast majority of cases, all they have done is give themselves a false sense of security. In most instances the knife they choose as their frontline carry is not suited to the task at hand when an emergency arises.

Most people select a folder based on a false assumption that leads to compromise. The assumption is that a folder can be carried concealed, while a fixed blade can't. The compromise comes when a folder is chosen because it is thought to be easier to conceal. The knife is usually chosen because of the issue of concealment rather than its performance capabilities. Remember those little clips on the edges of the pockets? The dogtag chain? They may not look like a knife, but to the streetwise eye

they are a dead giveaway. The simple truth is that a folder is not necessarily always perfectly concealed.

I say don't compromise. Simply decide what you need and figure out how to carry it when and where you need it. Some knives perform some chores far better than others. A number of men of my acquaintance routinely carry five or more knives on their persons everyday. I personally carry three. They are a Bowie with an 11-inch blade, a serrated folder, and a three-bladed slip-joint Congress Whittler. Here's what I carry, and why.

If self-defense is your goal, a large fixed-bladed knife, such as a Bowie stands head and shoulders above any other knife that you can choose. When facing a human adversary armed with a smaller shorter knife, someone equipped with a Bowie knife and proper technique places the adversary at a disadvantage that borders on comical. If the adversary has the Bowie knife and you have the 4-inch folder, and you can't outrun the other guy, you are a dead man. If the adversary is an animal



(above) Knives carried by the author on a daily basis: (top) Hell's Belle Bowie with an 11-inch blade, (bottom left) Schatt and Morgan Congress Whittler, (bottom right) Cold Steel Scimitar with serrated edge. The author (left) is carrying three knives. Only the handle and pocket clip of the Cold Steel Scimitar is visible. The 11-inch Bowie is totally concealed beneath his shirt.

such as a vicious attack dog, the story is the same. Unlike a human adversary, the dog has no fear of your knife, any knife, for he has no frame of reference pertaining to its capabilities. The dog will not dodge and try to be hard to hit, he will simply come straight at you, and with his high threshold of pain will not break off the attack over a small cut or two such as you might inflict with a 4-inch folder. He will come at you until his heart pumps air or you split his skull or sever his spinal cord. In dealing with an attack from an animal you must have a blade with the power to break him down and incapacitate him quickly. If you are armed with a folder, and you must fight a trained attack dog, the odds are not heavily in your favor. If you do win, you will be severely bitten unless you are extremely lucky. The Bowie makes it a very different situation, for now you have a tool that enables you to make heavy cuts and break bones as the dog comes into range.

The animal attack scenario is not to be taken lightly, for the national headlines have been filled as of late with numerous accounts of people being killed or severely mauled by attack dogs either in or out of control of their owners. If you jog in the park, you are at risk. Think about it.

If you are going to carry a knife primarily for defense, it should be a large fixed-bladed knife such as a Bowie. It can be carried totally concealed, and I do it everyday. My personal Bowie carry is a Hell's Belle, hand-forged with a blade 11.25 inches long. River City Sheaths makes a neat kydex rig they have named Southern Comfort that allows one to carry a full-sized Bowie totally concealed wearing normal summer clothing. They have developed the Southern Comfort series to fit the Ontario Hell's Belle line, and it makes a handy, neat package.

I don't want to have to fight for my life with a folder simply because it is not the best tool for the job. If you make it the ONLY tool available to you for the job, then that is your fault and your problem. However, a good folder can save your life in other ways, and I carry one for that reason. My right pocket always holds a Cold Steel Scimitar #25SS with a fully serrated edge. Got a stuck seatbelt? No problem. The serrated Scimitar goes through it like butter and can be deployed in an instant. Did you or your friend get tangled in a tow-rope while water skiing? Your serrated folder clipped inside the waistband of

Continued on page 74



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Holsters

BY BOB ARGANBRIGHT

Hackathorn & Sparks

In 1976 I was fortunate to attend the International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) Founding Conference held in Columbia, MO. This was a six-day shooting seminar chaired by Jeff Cooper which resulted in the formation of IPSC. It was there that I first met Ken Hackathorn, at that time one of the hot new “combat” shooters in the Midwest. Ken finished high overall in the shooting exercises that were a major part of the Conference. He, as most of us, used a Colt Government Model .45 auto pistol. And his choice of a holster was what became known as the “Hackathorn Special,” made by Milt Sparks Holsters.

Master leatherworker Sparks had adapted the adjustable-tension welt, first designed by an FBI agent for revolver holsters, to holsters for the Colt .45 auto pistol. This consists of a thick leather strip running the full length of the rear edge of the holster called the welt. On the autopistol holster, approximately the top two-thirds is stitched securely in place. A screw post binder runs through the bottom of the holster and welt. This allows one to push the protruding bottom portion of the welt further into the holster cavity and then anchor it in position with the binder. In this way, one may adjust the tension on the holstered Colt .45 auto pistol. Yet one only need pull the gun a bit upward and the muzzle clears the tension device and the pistol instantly releases for a fast draw.

The Hackathorn Special is a high-ride, open-top muzzle-rake hip holster that includes the adjustable-tension welt for security. “Muzzle rake” indicates the holster positions the handgun with the muzzle angled forward, just

the opposite of the FBI rake. This allows one to draw the pistol with a locked wrist, a definite advantage for maximum speed work. The holster fully encloses the trigger guard to prevent premature access to the trigger when drawing a cocked-and-locked single-action auto pistol.

Leather is trimmed away from the root of the trigger guard so that the gun butt is presented for a full three-fingers grip with first hand contact, an absolute requirement for a fighting holster. The front edge of the pouch is cut down to the front edge of the pistol’s ejection port for maximum draw speed. The tunnel-style belt loop, for a 1.75-inch-wide belt, has tabs extending fore and aft which provide which provide maximum stability on the belt. For those wanting maximum stability, Velcro was available which locked the belt loop tabs to the special Sparks belt. The Hackathorn Special included sight rails securely stitched in place to protect the inside of the holster from sharp edged target blade front sights, as used at that time by most IPSC shooters.

When I met Ken, he was wearing his Hackathorn Special on the strong side, just in front of the point of the hip. Once the popular “start” position for IPSC competition became the “hands clasped at the waist” position, many shooters moved their Hackathorn Special holsters to the other hip for the cross-draw. This versatile holster proved to work equally well in either position. The Milt Sparks’ Hackathorn Special definitely belongs on our list of Classic Fighting Holsters.

With the current emphasis on concealment holsters, caused by the number of states which have recently authorized concealed-carry, Milt Sparks Holsters produces the Hackathorn



(left) The Hackathorn Special is still the perfect practical speed holster for the author’s ivory-gripped Wilson Combat Colt .45 auto pistol. (right) Milt Sparks Holsters’ new CC-AT model offers security, speed and concealment in a hip holster.



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Absolutely, and they are effective programs for teaching confidence and coordination building skills along with limited defensive skills.

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IS SCARS STILL IN USE?

Yes!

WHERE?

In various branches of the Specops community and within deployed NATO troops.

CAN THE PUBLIC ACCESS SCARS?

Yes, it was declassified in part and exposed to the public in 1993, under the name Hostile Control for non-lethal use. It was later combined with more lethal information under the name of SCARS IQS.

SCARS IQS was put together from archive information from the original Military SCARS Project to form a complete system for the public so they could possess both non-lethal and lethal fighting skills to protect themselves in the real world of street crime.

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SCARS has never been intended to replace martial arts or other "so called" systems of defense. SCARS is not defensive, therefore it is not suitable for children; you must be 18 years or older to purchase SCARS video products.

There are millions of martial arts schools that train children and young adults. The SCARS Institute is working on a new induction process that will be suitable for children and young adults, but until then, the SCARS system is intended only for adults.

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If you can't wait, go to www.scars.com and get all the information on SCARS.

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Bye Bye Las Vegas - Hello Raton, New Mexico!



YES, IT'S TRUE.

The SOF Three Gun Match and Convention has been renamed the "SOF/Whittington Center World Championship Three Gun Tactical Response Benefit Match, Shoot Fest and Gun Show." All profits will be donated to the NRA Whittington Center. Entry fees for the Match will be \$200. Shooters will be limited to 200. Shooters will be required to assist as range officers. Match will be held 6-9 September 2001.

Registration begins at 1600 hours, 5 September.

The Awards Barbeque will be held Sunday, 9 September.

In addition to shooting in the Match, shooters will receive the same items and access as the Shoot Fest participants. Shoot Fest participants' registration fee is \$100, for which you will receive the following:

- One year subscription to Soldier of Fortune Magazine.
- Shoot Fest T-Shirt.
- Access to the match.
- Outdoor Awards Barbeque.
- Participation in the "hands-on" manufacturers' demonstrations. Free ammo.
- Access to the gun show.
- Access to seminars sponsored by exhibitors.
- Access to a range where you can fire your personal weapons or weapons provided by SOF.
- The \$15 informal daily range fee is included.
- Sporting clays, trap and skeet shooting available for an additional fee.
- Socializing in the evenings at the headquarters hotel, the Holiday Classic, in Raton, NM, which has a large domed area and pool. Live country & western music will liven up the festivities.

EXHIBITORS

Commercial vendors. Each 10x10 space will cost \$200. If vendor has a mobile, wheeled exhibit, the Center has space to accommodate it.

Gun Show vendors. Each "table" will cost \$60.

Set up on 5 September, tear down 9 September.

LOGISTICS

Headquarters Hotel is the Holiday Classic in Raton. It has 59 rooms and the courtyard rooms face a domed area 135x80 feet, which includes a pool for socializing, getting hammered, or whatever. Phone: 1-800-255-8879. Cost: King or double, \$45.95 per room plus tax. Only 59 rooms — first come, first served!

The Whittington Center has 125 RV campsites as well as competitor housing, log cabins, housekeeping cabins and backcountry cabins. For rates, check the Whittington Center website at www.nrawc.org or call 505-445-3615.

Travel: If you do not drive, you will have to fly into Albuquerque, NM or Colorado Springs, CO. SOF recommends you use our travel agency, Pathways Travel, for booking your flight schedules. Phone: 1-800-336-7588. Ask for Lavina Vohlken or Gaynelle Tuck, or e-mail: Lavinav@uswest.net. We will have a recommendation for car rental by the time you read this.

For further information and application blanks, write: Match/Shoot Fest/Gun Show, c/o SOF, 5735 Arapahoe Ave., Suite A-5, Boulder, CO, 80303, or go to the SOF website, www.sofmag.com, or call Steve Schreiner at 303-449-3750 ext. 306.

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Looking forward to a great Match, Shoot Fest and Gun Show.

— Robert K. Brown
Editor/Publisher

Special for revolvers only meant for open field-carry. However, their new Model CC-AT, the Concealed Carry-Adjustable Tension holster, includes many of the features of the Hackathorn Special in a holster meant for casual concealed-carry. (Casual in that it is a high-ride outside the pants strong-side hip holster.) To be worn just behind the point of the hip, the CC-AT is FBI raked (gun butt tipped approximately 20 degrees forward from vertical), which eases the drawing motion when the handgun is worn high on the strong-side hip. This new holster is a modified pancake design, with belt slots for a 1.5-inch belt cut in the leading and trailing edges, in place of the traditional tunnel belt loop.

The back side of the holster has what Tony Kanaley, President of Milt Sparks Holsters, calls a "steer grain texture" which is similar to a pebble grain finish. This finish is resistant to scratches from blue jeans rivets and such. The face of the holster shows hand molding for a perfect fit to the desired handgun, in my case the Colt .45 auto. As with the Hackathorn Special, the CC-AT encloses the trigger guard for safety, yet presents the gun butt for a correct shooting grip with first-hand contact. While not cut as low in front as the speedy Hackathorn Special, the front lip of the pouch has been cut down to the back edge of the ejection port of my Wilson Combat-tuned Colt .45 auto.

The combination of a single sight rail stitched to the back side of the pouch and a sight tunnel molded into the pouch's face, produces a sight tunnel so that one may use high sharp edged target front sights without damaging the CC-AT. My personal choice in a holster for defensive use is always of the open-top-style. The CC-AT is open-top with no safety straps to release before the pistol may be drawn. As with the Hackathorn Special, the CC-AT uses the adjustable-tension welt to secure the handgun safely without the use of safety straps. My sample CC-AT is finished in plain black with a glossy top finish. All edges are perfectly finished and stitching is neat and tight.

This has become my favorite casual concealment holster for use with the big Colt auto pistol. The CC-AT has been approved for use in the International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA) competition, and should be perfect for those who choose a large-frame auto pistol. ✖

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PRODUCT CHART

	CALIBER	PROJECTILE			PRIMER	MUZZLE VELOCITY feet/second
		GRAINS	JACKET	TYPE		
CENTERFIRE PISTOL						
	9MM LUGER (9X19)	115	COPPER	FMJ	BERDAN	1150
	9X18 MAKAROV	109	COPPER	FMJ	BERDAN	1033
	.380 AUTO (9X17)	91	COPPER	FMJ	BERDAN	1010
	40 S&W	180	COPPER	FMJ	BOXER	990
	.45 AUTO	230	COPPER	FMJ	BOXER	850
CENTERFIRE RIFLE						
	7.62X39	122	BIMETAL COPPER	HP, FMJ, SP	BERDAN	2396
	.223 REM	55	COPPER	HP, FMJ	BOXER	3241
	.223 REM	62	COPPER	FMJ	BOXER	3025
	5.45X39	60	BIMETAL COPPER	HP, FMJ	BERDAN	2886
	7.62X54R	200	COPPER	FMJ, SP	BERDAN	2380
RIMFIRE RIFLE						
	.22 LONG RIFLE MATCH TARGET	40	SOLID	ROUND NOSE	RIMFIRE	1050
	.22 LONG RIFLE MATCH GOLD	40	SOLID	ROUND NOSE	RIMFIRE	1033

Rimfire ammunition is brass case and manufactured by SK Jagd-und, Germany
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Keep 'Em Shooting

TEXT & PHOTOS BY STEVE COMUS

Swedish 6.5x55 Rifles and Ammo



The full-length Model 1896 Swedish Mauser is both well-made and accurate.

If there is a sentimental favorite among military cartridges, the 6.5x55mm Swedish Mauser is it. Reasons are several, but paramount is the fact that this mild-recoiling and effective cartridge happened to have been chambered in superbly made rifles. Further, these usually received excellent maintenance, which means they have been in extremely good condition when turned loose on the surplus market.

The cartridge was introduced with the Model 1894 Swedish Mauser rifle and continued through the Model 1896 to the Model 1938. All of these bolt-action models share the



The Swedish Mausers feature cock-on-closing, which also results in a comparatively long striker travel, as can be seen here by the length of the striker that sticks out from the rear of the striker shroud. Unique to Swedish Mausers is the lug atop the rear of the striker assembly, which helps let down the striker on an empty chamber when uncocking is desired.

same design of action, and differ mainly in barrel length. Later, the cartridge also was used for the Swedish Ljungman semi-auto rifle. Norway also used the cartridge in its Models 1894 and 1912 Krag-Jorgensen rifles. In recent years, this cartridge has been chambered in many more commercial rifles than ever before. Traditionally, European and Scandinavian commercial rifles have been the only ones chambered on the civilian market for this cartridge.

Although the focus of this loading piece is on the bolt-action rifles, it might be noted that when loading for the Ljungman gas-operated rifles, the 140-grain bullet seems to work best. For the bolt rifles, both 140- and 160-grain bullets work well in most cases. However, those who find that their 1894 carbines don't shoot 140-grain bullets well should look to loads for the 160-grain bullet. This simple remedy generally works well.

The Swedish Mauser is in some ways a slight evolution from the Model 1893 Spanish design. However, there are interesting and important differences. One is the anti-bind device for the bolt itself. In the Spanish Mauser, this is accomplished by milled raceways along the left side of the receiver. In the Swedish Mauser, it is the raised rail on the bolt itself, a feature that was adopted later into the Model 1898 Mauser.

All of the Swedish-made military bolt-actions are of the pre-'98 family. This means they feature what has come to be known as a small ring — the front receiver ring's physical size. They also lack what is known as the third "safety" lug of the '98 Mauser. However, they all have the now-famous non-rotating claw extractor of all military Mausers after the '91s. (The Swedish Model 40 rifle, essentially a German made Kar98k with a muzzle brake, was in 8x63 Bofors caliber).

Sweden used two military loadings over the years. One

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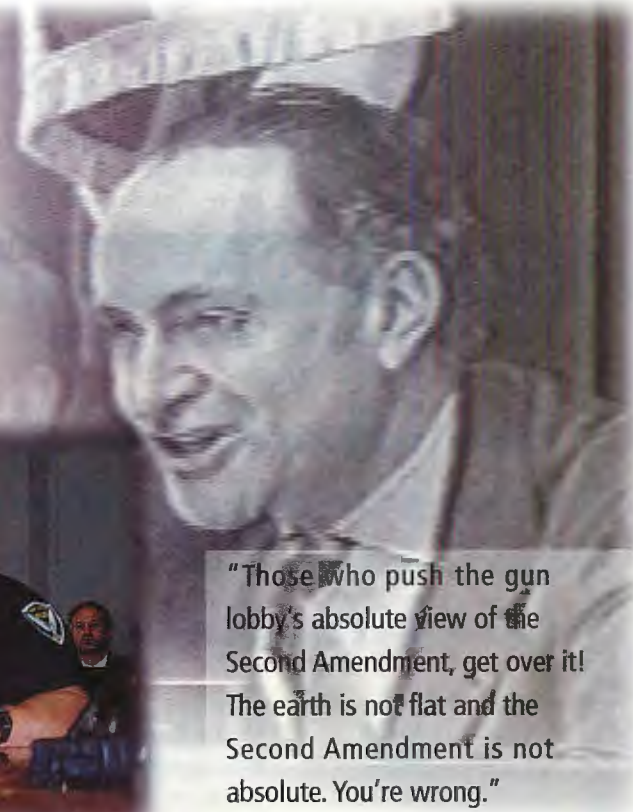
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*Charles Schumer, (D-N.Y.)
Attacking the police officers who testified at a Congressional Hearing to Repeal the Gun and Magazine Ban.*

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was a 139-grain bullet at 2,625 feet per second, and the other was a 156-grain bullet at 2,395 fps. Both can be duplicated effectively with commercially available 140- and 160-grain bullets. When shooting surplus rifles and using the issue military sights, handloads that duplicate or approximate the military loadings generally work best, because the rifle will

shoot where it looks.

Sights on the military rifles feature the typical inverted "V" post front sight and a combination of tangent and ladder rear barrel sight. When the rear sight is in the down mode, it adjusts in 100-meter settings from the battle zero of 300 to 600. Raise the rear sight to the ladder mode, and settings in 100-meter

TYPICAL LOADS FOR THE 6.5x55mm

140-GRAIN BULLETS

STARTING LOADS

40.5 grains of AA4350.	Muzzle velocity 2,300 fps.
45.0 grains of H450.	Muzzle velocity 2,650 fps.
41.0 grains of H414.	Muzzle velocity 2,600 fps.
46.0 grains of IMR 7828.	Muzzle velocity 2,700 fps.
44.0 grains of IMR 4831.	Muzzle velocity 2,700 fps.
41.0 grains of Win. 760.	Muzzle velocity 2,600.
46.0 grains of Reloder 22.	Muzzle velocity 2,700 fps.
44.0 grains of Reloder 19.	Muzzle velocity 2,675 fps.

MAXIMUM LOADS

45.0 grains of AA4350.	Muzzle velocity 2,600 fps.
48.0 grains of H450.	Muzzle velocity 2,800 fps.
49.0 grains of IMR 7828.	Muzzle velocity 2,800 fps.
47.0 grains of IMR 4831.	Muzzle velocity 2,800 fps.
43.0 grains of Win. 760.	Muzzle velocity 2,700 fps.
49.0 grains of Reloder 22.	Muzzle velocity 2,850 fps.
47.0 grains of Reloder 19.	Muzzle velocity 2,775 fps.

160-GRAIN BULLETS

STARTING LOADS

42.0 grains of H450.	Muzzle velocity 2,300 fps.
39.0 grains of H414.	Muzzle velocity 2,400 fps.
46.0 grains of H1000.	Muzzle velocity 2,300 fps.
43.0 grains of IMR 7828.	Muzzle velocity 2,400 fps.
40.0 grains of IMR 4831.	Muzzle velocity 2,375 fps.
38.0 grains of Win. 760.	Muzzle velocity 2,300 fps.
44.0 grains of Reloder 22.	Muzzle velocity 2,450 fps.
42.0 grains of Reloder 19.	Muzzle velocity 2,400 fps.

MAXIMUM LOADS

45.0 grains of H450.	Muzzle velocity 2,500 fps.
41.0 grains of H414.	Muzzle velocity 2,500 fps.
49.0 grains of H1000.	Muzzle velocity 2,500 fps.
48.0 grains of IMR 7828.	Muzzle velocity 2,500 fps.
43.0 grains of IMR 4831.	Muzzle velocity 2,500 fps.
40.0 grains of Win. 760.	Muzzle velocity 2,450 fps.
47.0 grains of Reloder 22.	Muzzle velocity 2,600 fps.
45.0 grains of Reloder 19.	Muzzle velocity 2,550 fps.

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increments go from 700 to 2,000. Windage adjustments are limited to drifting the dovetailed front sight post left or right.

The trigger on the military rifles is of the classic two-stage persuasion. Typically, the trigger pull for as issued Swedish Mausers is 5 1/4 pounds. The letoff is generally very crisp, and over-travel minimal. This all adds up to a trigger system, as issued, that does not detract from potential accuracy.

Norma has marketed three loadings commercially, and they work well. In recent years, most major U.S. manufacturers also have entered the game with their own commercial offerings — these sporting 140-grain bullets.

Relative scarcity of reloadable Boxer-primed cases kept interest in the cartridge and rifles that shoot it at a background level for decades. However, now that ammunition and reloadable cases for the cartridge are now relatively common, interest in both the rifles and cartridges has been renewed.

On the hunting front, the 6.5x55mm cartridge is simply awesome. It is one of those combinations that kills way beyond what its paper ballistics would suggest. In open country applications, it can be considered the equal of the .270 Winchester, yet on larger game at shorter distances, it is as effective as anything is in the .30-06 class of cartridges.

Swedish military bolt-action rifles and carbines commonly came in three barrel lengths: 17.7 inches for the '94 carbine, 29 inches for the '96 rifle and 24 inches for the '38 short rifle. The finest workmanship is shown on the 19th Century rifles — no surprise. These military rifles were made both at the Mauser factory in Oberndorf, Germany, and at the Carl Gustafs Stads Gevarsfaktori in Sweden.

It is the high level of workmanship exhibited in these rifles that really separates them from the pack. Overall, the most enjoyable model to shoot is the full-length Model 1896 rifle. It not only delivers all the cartridge has to offer, due to its longer barrel, but the fit and finish of both wood and metal parts is without eclipse in the military surplus world.

Operationally, the Swedish rifles are classic Mauser. To remove the bolt, merely pull the bolt to the rear and then pull out on the bolt release lever at the left rear of the action. The bolt comes out easily for cleaning.

Continued on page 71

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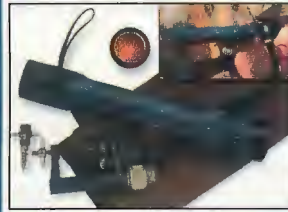
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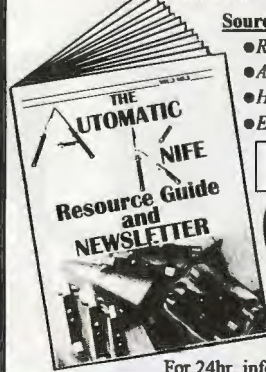
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Get Your Gear

BY TOM CHAMBERS

Fit That Pack First

AS I mentioned in my previous columns, I learned a lot of lessons in the Army the hard way because I didn't know how to use my equipment properly, didn't maintain it, or didn't have the proper equipment with me when I needed it the most. That's basically what this column is about. I'm going to present some basics about how to select the gear you might need and how to properly maintain and use it, and might even give a specific recommendation on a product that I've successfully used in the past.

I don't remember if it was during basic or advanced light weapons infantry training that I got introduced to the G.I. Army pack. We were shown what was to go inside, how to pack it, and wear it properly. The only thing missing was the kitchen sink. What we weren't shown at the time was that it was uncomfortable, heavy and tended to rub sore spots on the back and sides, and kill your shoulders. In the end most of us ended up using our hands to support the shoulder straps and ended up bent forward at the waist to counteract the weight.

Of course as we got smarter, a lot of things that were to be carried got left in the foot or wall locker. I think the major problem was that one size had to fit everybody. Sure the straps were adjustable, but a short guy ended up with the bottom of the pack sitting on his butt, and a tall drink of water had the bottom of the pack in the middle of his back. As far as I know it was the same design as used in WW II. As I remember a full field pack weighed about 40 pounds. Then add the weight of a M1 Garand at eight or nine pounds, two bandoleers of .30 caliber ball ammunition, and a canteen or two of water and man, you were hauling a load and only 20 more miles to go.

Like so many things that have changed since I got out of

the Army some 38 years ago, the world of packs has changed from the old rigid design to today's modern pack systems with suspension. One of the most respected names in packs today is Gregory Mountain Products. In founder Wayne Gregory's own words, "I have several passions: my family, the mountains, and designing gear that makes the outdoor experience

more enjoyable. I've spent the last thirty years improving backpacks, including how they carry, and how they react and move with you whether you're hiking, skiing, or climbing. I realized a long time ago that putting a sixty-pound pack on your back isn't really what the outdoor experience is all about. Rather, it's about the many seemingly far-away places your pack can help you experience. My goal has always been to make a pack so comfortable that it virtually disappears, allowing you to enjoy your outdoor experience without concern or distraction from the pack on your back. This is what defines true comfort, which is what sets Gregory packs apart from others. It's what my packs are known for, and what I dream about every day."

The U.S. Army must agree with Wayne as they asked multiple manufacturers for a suspension system capable of supporting 125+ pounds. The Gregory designed and engineered SPEAR backpack system met their needs, and is now worn by U.S. Army Rangers and Special Forces.

Two key features on most Gregory packs sets them apart from others: Auto-Cant T and Adjust-A-Cant T. Many backpackers experience painful end-of-day shoulder fatigue. One factor that can cause this is the static nature of most shoulder harnesses. That is, they're sewn into the pack's back panel in a fixed position. Gregory's revolutionary Auto-Cant T allows the shoulder harnesses to independently rotate to match your individual shoulder



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slope and neck width, as well as the movement associated with activity.

The key to Gregory's ability to carry extremely heavy loads is the Adjust-A-Cant T waist belt panel that attaches directly to the stays. Its adjustable, conical shape mirrors your iliac crest (your waist bone) and gives the waist belt its structure, allowing it to support the packs weight. This is important since an unstructured waist belt will sag, and allow the weight to collapse your lower back and ride on top of your bottom.

The Gregory Active Suspension System is comprised of a frame sheet, aluminum stays, waist belt, and shoulder harness. This system supports the pack's weight, yet at the same time allows the body to twist and flex as you hike or climb. The sized, pre-curved stays are in a "V" configuration to provide additional headroom. The combination of frame sheet and stays supports directs the weight to the Adjust-A-Cant T panel. This provides the structure that allows the weight to be shifted from the shoulders to the hips. The panel also keeps the waist belt at the correct angle on your waist (high in back and low in the front), so the weight stays on your hip shelf, rather than flexing down in back where it ends up sitting on top of your rear end.

First and foremost, the pack you are shopping for must fit you properly. Wayne Gregory has been analyzing and experimenting with fitting techniques for backpacks for years. He was the first designer to build an anatomically correct internal frame pack, the first industry professional to create a fool-proof method for measuring body size (a system that is used throughout the outdoor industry today), and the first manufacturer to offer a shoulder harness and waist belt-sizing program.

Gregory Mountain Products has a full line of packs from the Professional Series expedition packs to the Approach Series day-packs. You can get more information from Gregory Mountain Products, 27969 Jefferson Ave., Temecula, CA 92590; phone: 800-477-3420; fax: 909-676-6777; e-mail: customerservice@gregory-packs.com; or website: www.gregory-packs.com. Also, if you are into packing at all, then get a copy of the Gregory catalog. Its got a lot of good information in it and is one of the better designed catalogs I've ever seen. There is no charge for the catalog and you can visit their website to order one or call their toll-free number. ☒

NEW*

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A Mauser 98K, Model M48, the strongest and safest of bolt action rifles, made on German tooling set up by the Germans in occupied Yugoslavia during WWII.

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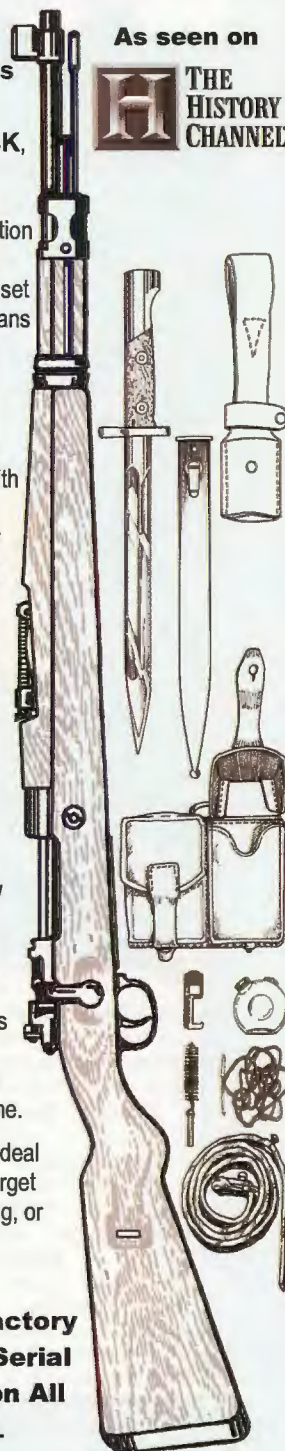
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WORLD SITREP



1

UNITED STATES

Agent Orange Linked To Leukemia: July 2000's *American Legion* magazine states, "A federal panel of scientists has linked Agent Orange to a rare form of leukemia in the children of Vietnam War veterans. During the War, U.S. troops sprayed the chemical herbicide defoliant, which contains cancer-causing dioxin. ... The American Legion supports VA compensation for the cost of care from onset of the disease to the death of veterans' children," said Steven Smithson, the Legion's assistant director of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. • **Spooky Interns?** One of the more interesting accusations to emerge from the interns' scandals is that Chandra Levy and Monica Lewinsky were operatives of a rogue element of Israel's Mossad planted in D.C. to gather intelligence. • **Beneath The Facade:** UN conference convenes to debate illicit small arms and light weapons trade. Many believe that ultimate goal is global confiscation of estimated 500 million privately held firearms. President Bush says U.S. will reject any agreement which interferes with right to own weapons and the legal world weapons trade. • **Wrong Side Again:** An e-mail from Israel states that CIA trained approximately 40 PLO "policemen" in advanced sniper techniques in the U.S. Cops have misbehaved, however, inflicting terrible casualties on IDF personnel, Arab collaborators and others. • **Like Brother, Like Brother:** Congressional investigators find at least \$200k from Communist Chinese sources in Roger Clinton's bank account.

2

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VENEZUELA

Power Consolidation: President Hugo Chavez, concerned with eroding power, brings in Cuban advisors and sets up presidential intelligence service. Foreign critics have been given the heave-ho.

4

COLOMBIA

Latest Bodies Count: Upward of 750 Americans, military and civilian, are on the ground in "advisory" capacities. By autumn, numbers might increase to 2,000, with an additional 400 heading to Eloy Alfaro Airport in Manta, Ecuador. • **Pastrana, Good-Bye:** Prediction is that President Pastrana will be ousted next year in favor of a hard-liner. Public dissatisfaction with his handling of war and economy are chief reasons. • **Cut The Funding:** Colombian Congress votes to limit transfer payments from national to local authorities, which will further erode support for Pastrana. • **Hostages, Hostages Everywhere:** FARC snatches 207 people on 18 May. Violent reactions by independent paramilitary groups might occur. • **Exercise In Futility?** Rand Corporation warns that combating drugs while ignoring civil war is unwise since unlimited drug dollars are enabling Gs to take over Colombia.

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SUDAN

Make Mine Chinese: Three new weapons factories built near Khartoum with help from Mainland Chinese. Since Sudan receives about \$500 million annually from PRC and Canadian oil companies, military expenditures are likely linked to oil revenues.

13

VIETNAM

Same Old Adversaries: Citizens who have contacts with Americans are being harassed, threatened, interrogated and even assaulted. One young lady reports being run down twice by motorcycles, one incident causing a leg fracture. Montagnard Persecution Refugee Expert Lionel Rosenblatt says, "The Vietnamese really think that the best kind of Montagnard is a dead one."

14

CHINA

Freedom To Repress: Officials order newspaper in Jiangsu Province shut down for printing a sarcastic article about President Jiang Zemin. • **Panama, Here We Come:** Chris Ruddy says there's evidence of China using illegal immigrants to colonize areas of Panama and other Latin American countries.

2

CANADA

North Of The Border Brothers: Estimated 300,000, of 2.3 million, Canadian gun owners have not applied for gun license under 1998 Firearms Act. • **Dumping Leadership:** Royal Canadian Military Institute says that "paper warriors" at National Defence Headquarters have presided over Forces' demise. Recommends change in personnel for more dynamic leadership.

3

MEXICO

Host To G Groups? Islamic and other groups linked to terrorist activity might be using Mexico as springboard to the U.S. These might include *Hezbollah* and the Basque *ETA*.

6

ENGLAND

"Stealthy" No Longer: Knight Ridder News Service reports that British firm says it has constructed device which can pinpoint Stealth aircraft — using ordinary cellular phone traffic. "It is a system that turns the cloud of existing radio signals from cellphone towers into a passive radar detector. Where the B-2 can dodge most radar by reflecting the signals in odd directions, this system stations a new network of antennas to catch those diverted waves. ..."

7

IRAN

Target Israel: Recent Iranian defector has tipped-off Israel that the *Pasdaran*, or Revolutionary Guards, Rocket Unit, is training 50-mile-range 240mm Fagr-5 rockets on cities in northern Israel.

8

IRAQ

High Alert: Military forces ordered to state of high alert near Baghdad and in southern and northern Iraq. Hussein announces formation of civilian volunteer brigade of several million citizens to assist Palestinians in case of war with Israel.

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BELGIUM

No To "Echelon:" European parliament members vote on condemnation report regarding use of U.S.- and British-run international communications surveillance system. Human rights abuses are key objections.

9

11

AFGHANISTAN

Taliban Gung-Ho: By religious edict, 75% of world's opium crop is eradicated.

12

BURMA

Drug Boom Just Starting: From annual high production of 2,500 tons of opium during 1980s, production might increase. United Wa State Army, a major producer, relocates tens of thousands of hill tribesmen to area close to Thailand where climate and soil are better suited to opium cultivation.

16

ITALY

"Don't Forget A Big Supply Of Bodybags:" As country gears up for G8 Summit in Genoa, authorities order 200 bodybags. Protesters, from Basque separatists to environmentalists, promise confrontations with law enforcement.

15

MACEDONIA

Give Up, Give In: NATO prepares to move alliance troops in while pressing government to give in to Albanian militants. Because NATO troops will be *de facto* allies of the militants, Gs will achieve victory via peaceful means.

World Sitrep is compiled by the SOF staff with information from various media and correspondents.

Omega PROVEN Ground

Steyr's SBS TACTICAL HB

BY DAVID M. FORTIER

PHOTOS BY EMILY K. NICKERSON

It was in 1969 that Steyr firmly established itself as a top contender in the tactical rifle community. This year saw the adoption of the *Scharfschützen Gewehr 69* (Sharpshooters Rifle Model 1969) by the Austrian Army. Usually referred to as simply "SSG", the Steyr quickly earned an enviable reputation for superb accuracy. No newcomer to building sniper rifles, optically sighted Steyr M95 straightpulls had been fielded by the Austro-Hungarian Army during World War I. However the SSG was more than simply a service rifle with a scope. It quickly carved a respectable reputation for itself, and Steyr, due to its accuracy, and while not perfect, it was an impressive rifle in 1969.

In the late 1990s, Steyr began lusting after the American law enforcement market. However almost anyone can tell you that when it comes to law enforcement tactical rifles in the U.S. there is only one name — Remington. This did not deter Steyr though, and they set out to design and market a tactical rifle that could compete with the Remington 700 PSS.

Their goal was to produce an affordable out-of-the-box rifle with accuracy superior to a normal factory rifle (read Remington 700PSS). To accomplish this, they abandoned the rear locking lug SSG action in favor of their new "Safe Bolt System" design. The SBS design represents the next generation of Steyr precision rifles and is not simply an evolution of



While the Steyr SBS HB tactical rifle is quite good straight out of the box, a "supertune" brings it up to the next level. We added a McMillan A3 stock, D.D. Ross scope base and tactical rings, and an I.O.R. Valdada 2.5-10x42 tactical scope.

the SSG. The SBS features a fully enclosed receiver unlike a Remington 700 or Winchester M70. The thinking being that an enclosed receiver offers more rigidity than an open design which will aid accuracy. Also the Steyr's bolt features four, rather than two, locking lugs at its front. It looks like a conventional dual opposed design, except that there is an additional set of smaller lugs aligned behind the primary lugs. The bolt face is fully enshrouded and features a conventional plunger type ejector. Bolt rotation is less than that of a Remington or Winchester, although greater effort is required.



D.D. Ross machined the receiver and mounted his indestructible steel scope base. To this we mounted an I.O.R. tactical scope via D.D. Ross Extra H.D. Tactical rings. This is as bulletproof as it gets.



Teamed with good ammunition our Steyr proved capable of superb accuracy as this .20-inch, 100-yard, three-shot group attests.

Noteworthy is the fact that the bolt strips easily without tools in just a few seconds, and goes back together just as easily.

Attached to the receiver one finds a 25.6-inch medium-heavy taper barrel. In keeping with Steyr tradition it's cold hammer forged and retains the swirl pattern formed during the rifling process. Nothing fancy is done at the muzzle; just a simple crown. This unit is mated to a light synthetic stock. The butt is adjustable for length of pull via a simple set of spacers. The pistolgrip is nicely contoured and very comfortable and ergonomic. The triggerguard is large and easily accommodates gloves for cold weather use. Feed is from detachable box magazines. Standard units hold four rounds. They consist of a plastic body and follower with releases on each side of the body that need to be pressed simultaneously. An optional 10-round magazine and required adapter are also available.

While a fine rifle out of the box the SBS does have one major drawback; its stock. The problem being that it's very flexible. Something not written about in the popular gunpress is the fact that it takes little effort to flex the forearm .25 inches or more in pretty much any direction desired. Simply attaching a Harris bipod and setting the rifle on the ground will flex the forearm enough to contact the barrel. However, rather than just bitch about something, we here at SOF decided to show how any operator can take an out of the box Steyr SBS Tactical Rifle to the next level. As it's basically a superb rifle out of the box we simply wanted to improve the stock and add a bullet proof platform for mounting optics.

To do this we contacted McMillan Fiberglass Stocks Inc. and Dan Ross of D.D. Ross Company. If you're into precision rifles these are two companies you should know about. McMillan is well known for their fine tactical stocks for the Remington 700 and some other actions. Luckily, they also offer an A3 Model for the Steyr. Made from hand-laid fiberglass, this stock is extremely rugged. It's adjustable for length of pull via spacers and features a thumb wheel adjustable cheek piece that's adjustable

for height. An accessory rail under the forend is available as an option. Well-designed and solid, this stock vastly improves the feel of this rifle. More importantly, though, this stock has no flex in it, unlike the factory unit.

One of the most commonly made mistakes on precision rifles is the improper mounting of optics. As this is your sighting system you want the most rugged mounting system available. For this we turned to former Marine Dan Ross. Dan currently makes the best scope mount I know of for the SBS. A steel M1913 Picatinny rail, it features two indexing holes and dowel pins and is bolted to the receiver with oversize #8 screws. This provides a mechanical attachment rather than just screwing a piece of steel to the top of the rifle. While the receiver does have to be machined for this mount, the results are well worth having to send the rifle away. To the base we mounted a set of Ross's steel H.D. extra-wide tactical rings and an I.O.R. Valdada 2.5-10x42 Tactical Scope.

The results? An impressively accurate rifle! Five-shot groups at 300 yards with 168-grain PMC Match average 1 1/4". The rifle balances well, and while the forend snuggles nicely into sandbags it is not so flat and "benchrest"-oriented to be uncomfortable on long stalks. The pistolgrip is well-designed, and, in my opinion, much more comfortable than the HS Precision unit used by Remington on the 700PSS. The scope mount and rings are rock solid and will withstand anything short of a Thermo Nuclear strike. The I.O.R. scope is among the best available. This combo will thrive under the hard knocks of field use.

The Steyr SBS HB Tactical Rifle is a fine weapon out of the box. Surprisingly accurate, with an excellent trigger, and a detachable magazine that actually works, it's a very good choice for anyone needing a precision rifle. With the simple upgrade of a McMillan stock and D.D. Ross mount, though, this rifle is capable of performing as well as many extremely expensive custom rifles. If you're the proud owner of a Steyr, or are thinking of purchasing one, I highly recommend these simple modifications. ✕

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McMillan Fiberglass Stocks Inc.

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Sellier & Bellot USA

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(Sellier & Bellot Match Ammunition)

H&K'S G36:

FOR **COMMANDOS ONLY**

Modular Weapons System Does All

BY GARY PAUL JOHNSTON
PHOTOS COURTESY AUTHOR



This "have it your way" weapon is the latest sibling of H&K's new mission-specific family.

With the purchase of Heckler & Koch (H&K) by Royal Ordnance in March of 1991, the two companies planned to jointly produce a new, economical 5.56x45mm rifle together. Emerging in the same year as the Project 50, the initial prototype of the G36 was called the HK50. Subsequently, the name was changed to HK36, but this rifle never saw series production. A later development, the *Gewehr 36* (G36) was based on ideas from Project 50. Clouded in secrecy early on, the G36 was in a fierce race with the Steyr AUG to replace the G3 rifle and UZI SMG for the *Bundeswehr's* component of the European Rapid Reaction Force. The G36 won that race.

Although the U.K./H&K joint rifle was never produced, any connection between the G36 and Royal Ordnance

remains uncertain. Nevertheless, the G36 bears at least some resemblance to the defunct British Sterling SAR87 as well as some mechanical features similar to those of the British SA80, and to the Armalite AR-18 from which that rifle was developed.

Being a radical departure for H&K, the G36 totally abandoned the traditional roller-locked, delayed blowback mechanism in favor of a conventional multi-lugged rotating bolt similar to that of the M16, as well as the rifles already mentioned. The operating system consists of a 2-piece short-stroke gas piston that works much the same way as that of many rifles before it including the AR-18, WW II German G43 and the Soviet Tokarev before it.

Instead of the pressed sheet metal used in previous H&K weapons, the G36 makes extensive use of carbon fiber reinforced polymer. Major components made of this material include the lower receiver, handguard, folding buttstock, magazine well, carrying handle and magazine. Many other small parts are synthetic also, resulting in an unusually lightweight weapon. Similar to that of prior H&K rifles, the ambidextrous trigger group is available with the same markings to firing modes in international language. In addition to standard full and semi-automatic, 2- or 3-shot burst positions are available as well as semi-automatic only.

If the G36 is a departure in most respects, an H&K feature that has been retained is the rifle's modular design. Without the need for tools, virtually

every component of the G36 can be almost instantly removed and replaced with another simply by pushing out an assembly pin. Not only can trigger groups be instantly changed in the field, but also the magazine well can be substituted with one that will accept a different magazine including the M16 (NATO) magazine. However, the G36's standard 10- and 30-round magazine is made of semi-transparent plastic, and it can be instantly attached to the side of another magazine. A 100-round dual drum magazine is also available, and an AK-style magazine release is standard.

Housed in a machined steel slab-like carrier, the bolt of the G36 contains an M16 style extractor and a typical plunger-type ejector. Inside the bolt carrier are a number of tungsten disks that serve as an anti-bounce system. Integral with the carrier is another feature that is a departure for H&K; a reciprocating cocking handle. Located on the front of the extension of the carrier, this handle can be rotated 90 degrees left or right where it is simply pulled to the rear to actuate the bolt group. When released, the entire assembly returns forward. Pushing forward while holding the cocking handle outward provides a forward assist. Behind the ejection port is a deflector that also serves to retain the stock in the folded position. Ejection of spent casings is down and to the rear.

Although there is an automatic bolt hold-open device that operates after the last shot has been fired, if desired, this can be quickly disconnected in the field



(left) Brass flies as this officer fires a burst from his G36K carbine. He is using the 1.5X optical sight. Above it is the red dot reflex sight also integral with the carrying handle. (above) The standard G36 rifle (top) is seen with the semi-automatic only SL8-1 rifle that any law-abiding citizen can own.



(above) H&K's new G36 family is shown from the top, the standard G36 Combat Rifle with 3X optical sight carrying handle, the G36K with combination 1.5X/red dot reflex sight carrying handle and KAC RAS forearm, and the G36C with iron sights and Tasco Optima red dot sight. (left) In taking a corner, this SWAT officer is seen with his G36C at high ready with his finger off the trigger. Then, upon seeing a target, he snaps the gun to eye level and inserts his finger into the large trigger guard, all in a half-second. The G36C's short barrel makes it highly maneuverable.

after removing the pistol grip lower receiver. While there is no manual bolt release, a manual bolt hold-open button is located inside the front of the trigger guard. As with virtually all other controls, it is ambidextrous as are the sling mounts that use a new version of the HK Universal Sling.

Since the G36 is gas-operated, there is no need for a fluted chamber, and this along with polygonal rifling have been abandoned in favor of conventional rifling. The barrel is one of few parts that cannot be quickly removed, but a simple spanner wrench is all that is required for this operation, and barrels

can be changed or replaced at the field level. Rifling twists of 1-in-7 inches or 1-in-9 inches are available.

A detachable carrying handle not only shields the cocking handle, but also forms the housing for the standard 1.5X optical sight. Available for use with this sight is the Hensoldt NSA 80 II Passive Night Vision Module. Attaching to the carrying handle, this device uses a periscope design that extends down in front of the standard optical sight. This allows the user to use the same aim during low light. Optional is a carrying handle with a dual sighting system consisting of 3.5X optical with a round 6-mil reticle with holdover lines out to 800 meters with an electronic red dot sight above it.

Disassembly

Fieldstripping the G36 is simple and is accomplished as follows: After removing the magazine, pull the cocking handle to the rear to open the bolt and visually make sure that the chamber is empty. Then release the handle and move the selector to the SAFE position. Now remove the sling and unfold the buttstock. Now pull out both receiver pins and store them in

their recesses in the stock and pull off the lower receiver/pistol grip and remove the magazine well. Now fold the buttstock.

Push down on the lug holding the recoil spring group and remove the recoil spring group from the rear of the receiver. Then pull back on the cocking handle to unlock the bolt and remove the bolt group from the receiver. With the bolt pushed all the way into the carrier, depress the firing pin from the rear and remove the firing pin retaining pin from the left side of the carrier, and then remove the firing from the rear. Now pull out the cam from the left side of the carrier and pull the bolt out the front of the carrier.

Push out the retaining pin at the rear of the handguard and slide the handguard off the front of the barrel, exposing the operating rod group. Now pull back on operating rod, push it to one side and remove it and its spring forward out of the rifle. Then pull the piston out of the rear of the cylinder. No further disassembly is normally required. Reassembly is in reverse taking care to set the hammer between its down and cocked position when replacing the trigger group.

Mission-Specific

In addition to the standard rifle, the G36 is available in a Light Support Weapon (LSW) configuration that comes equipped with a bipod and a 100-shot dual drum magazine. Both the rifle and the LSW come with a bayonet mount. Also available is the G36K Carbine that uses a shorter barrel and forend. On this forend is a rail on which can be mounted the HK Universal Tactical Light (UTL) or the HK79 40mm grenade launcher. Other accessories include long and short Picatinny rail mounts and Rail Adapter System (RAS) made for H&K by Knight's Armament Company. With the RAS, the standard G36 does away with its carrying handle and can use Knight's low-profile flip-up open sights. In addition to the standard 18.9 inch and 12.5 inch barrels, a special 15.4 inch Close-Quarter-Battle (CQB) barrel is available for the G36 and G36K models. All versions of the G36 use the folding stock and can also use the 100-round dual drum magazine in addition to sharing almost all other parts in common. In short, the G36 family is a mix and match system that can easily be tailored to your particular needs.



The G36C

The latest member of H&K's G36 family is the G36C. An assault carbine meant to fill the role of the .223 caliber HK53, the G36C has a 9-inch (228.6mm) barrel and uses a special short handguard on which Picatinny rails can be mounted on both sides and the bottom. The G36C uses no carrying handle and comes standard with flip-up sights. A special Picatinny rail is also available that will accommodate virtually any sight system including Aimpoint, Colt Competition, Kimber, Tasco Optima and Trijicon reflex sights along with night vision and more conventional optics.

In addition, any #M1913 mount can be used on the rail including A.R.M.S. Throw Lever mounts and rings. This rail

replaces the flip-up front sight and is equipped with its own protected front sight post. With a Picatinny rail mounted on the bottom of the handguard, the G36C can use Knight's vertical foregrip. On this grip can be mounted a remote pressure switch for one of several SureFire Tactical Weapon Lights that can be mounted on one of the side Picatinny rails.

Invented by Mr. Richard Swan, of A.R.M.S., Inc., the Picatinny rail has become type classified as the #M1913 Mil-Standard, and is now used by all NATO military establishments with most other countries following suit. Providing an ideal platform on which to mount optics is only half of the equation with international logistics being equally important. What this means is that virtually any sight mount made to

#M1913 specifications can be instantly mounted on the Picatinny rail or replaced with another with return to zero. In the 21st century it is doubtful that any military shoulder arm that is not Picatinny compatible will make it. The H&K G36C makes extensive use of the Picatinny system.

Why .223?

Designed especially with urban tactical use in mind, the H&K G36C is ideal not only for perimeter security, but also for building entry in critical incidents and high-risk warrant service. With a muzzle velocity of 2,461 fps using M855 5.56x45mm NATO ammunition, the G36C provides sufficient velocity to assure that most modern .223 caliber expanding projectiles will perform as designed. This guarantees effectiveness exceeding any handgun cartridge even when fired from a carbine or SMG. Such effectiveness includes defeating body armor that is increasingly used by criminals and terrorists, and defeating body armor is something that SMGs can't do.

With regard to over penetration, virtually all .223 expanding bullets over penetrate no more than handgun bullets in case of a miss, and most over penetrate less. This is because .223 soft-nosed bullets tend to break up into smaller pieces even on hitting dry wall and wood found in interior walls. Handgun bullets nearly always remain intact posing more of a threat to others present.

Recently I was allowed to test and evaluate the H&K G36C exclusively for SOF. The sample G36C was the only one in the U.S. at the time although many have been ordered by law enforcement agencies across the country. Being essentially a pre-production sample, the test gun had been modified by H&K by shortening the buttstock slightly at the urging of those in the tactical community who had previously evaluated it. This is because the extra thickness of entry body armor often increases eye relief to an unacceptable distance. Better too little eye relief than too much. All production G36Cs will have the shorter stock, and this stock will be available on the G36K as an option.

Shots Fired

In testing the G36C alongside H&K's G36K, I found both weapons extremely satisfactory. With identical cyclic rates and similar handling characteristics, both guns were fast on target and very controllable on full auto-

G36, G36 LSW, G36K & G36C

SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	5.56x45mm (.223 Remington).	
Muzzle Velocity (SS109):	(G36 & LSW)	3,019 fps (920 m/s).
	(G36K)	2,789 fps (850 m/s).
	(G36C)	2,461 fps (750 m/s).
	(15.4" CQB bbl.)	2,887 fps (880 m/s).
System of Operation:	Short stroke gas piston.	
Method of Locking:	Positively locked rotating bolt.	
Mode of Fire:	Selective: Full-automatic, burst and semi-automatic.	
Overall Length:	(G36 stock extended)	39.3 inches (998.2mm).
	(G36 stock folded)	29.8 inches (756.9mm).
	(G36K stock extended)	33.8 inches (858.5mm).
	(G36K stock folded)	24.2 inches (614.7mm).
	(G36C stock extended)	28.27 inches (718mm).
	(G36C stock folded)	19.69 inches (500.1mm).
Barrel Length:	(G36 & LSW)	18.9 inches (480mm).
	(G36K)	12.5 inches (317.5mm).
	(G36C)	9 inches (228.6mm).
Rifling Twist:	6 grooves, 1-in-7 inch (177.8mm) or 1-in-9 inch (228.6mm) RHT.	
Weight:	(G36 alone)	7.28 pounds (3.31 kg.).
	(LSW alone)	7.87 pounds (3.58 kg.).
	(G36K alone)	6.62 pounds (3.0 kg.).
	(G36C alone)	6.28 pounds (2.86 kg.).
Cyclic Rate of Fire:	750 shots per minute.	
Feed Device:	10- and 30-shot box magazines, and 100 dual drum magazine.	
Sights:	(front) Protected post available.	
	(rear) Protected aperture adjustable for windage and elevation available.	
	(optics) 1.5X optical standard or dual 3.5X optical and day/night red dot.	
	(night vision) Hensoldt Passive NVD compatible with 1.5X optical sight. Picatinny rails compatible with any sight system.	
Finish:	Matte black Mil-Std.	



The standard G36 rifle with KAC Picatinny rail forend.



The G36K shown with stock folded and 1.5X/red dot reflex sight carrying handle.



The G36C with low Picatinny rail and Aimpoint Comp M reflex sight.

matic. However, since the G36K was equipped with the 1.5X optical sight/carrying handle, I found the G36C to be superior with its open sights and the Optima red dot sight that was mounted on its Picatinny rail. Even in bright sunlight, the Optima provided a bright red dot that was instantly in view when the gun was snapped up to eye level.

From the G36C accuracy seemed as good as with the G36K and the standard G36 rifle at short-to-medium ranges, but I probably would not select the G36C for a steady diet of shooting past 100 yards, not because of accuracy, but because of velocity levels. Beyond for use beyond 100 yards, the G36K, or G36 would likely be my choice, both equipped with the 15.4" CQB barrel.

With a trigger letoff similar to the M16, the G36C seemed instantly familiar, and its ergonomic pistol grip and selector reinforced this feeling. Even its charging handle is similar in operation to that of previous H&K weapons even though it does travel back and forth with the bolt. All empty brass was ejected down and to the rear, but so at an angle that would interfere with left handed use. Not surprisingly, no malfunctions of any kind occurred.

Ideal for law enforcement tactical duty or as a medium range-patrol carbine, the G36C, like its G36K counterpart, was designed for optimum performance, and because of its long list of accessories, it is a gun that you can have your way.

One You Can Own

Although you can't buy a G36, you can own its civilian counterpart. Called the SL8-1, this semi-automatic only version of the G36 is designed not only for individual officer purchase and sporting use, but is also the long-range precision rifle version of the G36 family. The SL8-1 operates exactly like the G36, and uses the same materials and many of the same parts as its selective fire counterpart. Instead of a black folding 'stock, the SL8-1 has a gray thumbhole-type fixed stock and comes with a unique magazine well that accepts a 10-shot single column magazine. It will also accept most of the standard G36 accessories. Look for my in-depth report on the SL8-1 in SOF soon.

In the meantime, for information on all its great products, contact Heckler & Koch, Inc., Dept. SOF, 21480 Pacific Blvd., Sterling, VA 20166; phone (703) 450-1900. ☒

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Kimber/Dept. SOF
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Yonkers, NY 10705
(888) 243-4522

Knight's Armament/Dept. SOF
7750 9th St., S.W.
Vero Beach, FL 32968
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SureFire Inc./Dept. SOF
18300 Mt. Baldy Cir.
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(800) 828-8809

Trijicon, Inc./Dept. SOF
POB 930059
Wixom, MI 48393
(800) 338-0563; (561) 562-5697

2001 NRA SHOW

New Toys for Boys Unveiled in Kansas City

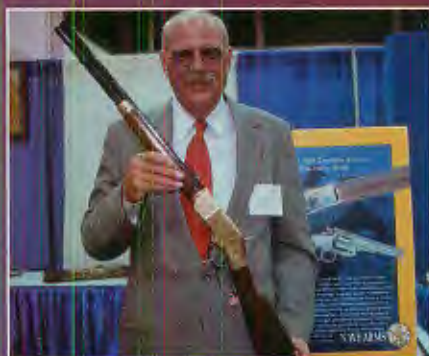
Text & Photos by David M. Fortier



▲ One of the great things about shows is running into old friends like George Harris of SIG Arms Academy. I've trained extensively at SIG and have always been extremely impressed by the skills and professionalism of the training cadre. Here George and SDF Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown discuss SIG's Blaser LRS2 straight-pull precision rifle. While unorthodox looking, the LRS2 is very comfortable, has a smooth, fast action, and is extremely accurate.



▲ Most people know by now that Beretta has acquired Sako; and Sako rifles were on display at the Beretta booth this year. Beretta seems to have a strong desire to push the Sako line so I believe it will be good for both companies. I have been nothing but impressed with Sako rifles, especially their TRG series. Their new TRG-22 .308 sniper rifle (shown) is well-designed and ergonomic. It features a superb action and feed design and is incredibly accurate. Expect a full review in a future SDF.



▲ Along with the very latest firearms the NRA Show had some familiar faces. Navy Arms, for instance, had a wide range of classics from Whitworth rifles to brass-framed lever guns like the one shown here by Paul Reed.



◀ Pawing around the Taurus booth checking out their impressive line of handguns, we came across their new 9mm 111 Ti-NS. Featuring a polymer lower mated to a titanium slide, the pistol weighs a scant 15 ounces and is, of course, extremely corrosion resistant. It looks like it would make a fine pistol for daily concealed-carry.



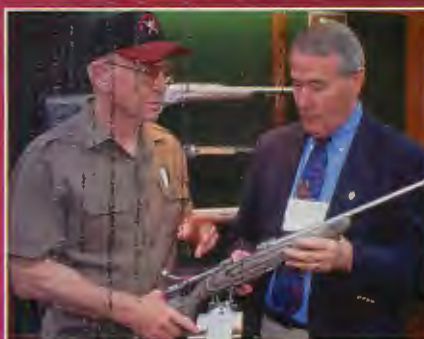
▲ We had to stop by and say "Hi" to the girls at C-More Systems. They were showing off the latest heads-up display Tactical Sight and their new AR handguards. C-More has been steadily improving their Red Dot sights and have a variety of options, including a new click switch that is adjustable for any lighting conditions, and two night-vision settings.



▲ CZ-USA had an impressive display of their fine rifles and handguns at the show, but their big hit was the Beamhit 190 PMTS system they had set up. An affordable home-computer-based training system, it was a lot of fun. Here, Marty Bordson of CZ-USA shows us how it's done.



▲ Along with a wide variety of M1911 pistols and M1A rifles, Springfield Armory had on display their new M25 White Feather sniper rifle. A heavily modified M1A designed for the utmost in accuracy, it is intended for use by police marksmen/observers. The White Feather logo carries on the tradition of Carlos Hathcock.



▲ One of the first places that Bob went at the show was to check out Ruger's new compact hunting rifle. Here Bob Thompson, of Ruger, goes over the new light-weight laminated stock/stainless rifle with him.



▲ Stopping by Inc.'s booth, we were immediately drawn to this FAL shortly being shown here by Giovanni Milano. Designed to provide a reliable and compact entry gun with .308 power, the snub-nosed FAL handled extremely well and scored high on the "Cool Chart." We gave Giovanni extra points for the poster in the back, too.



▲ Armalite Inc. had an impressive display of .50 BMG rifles, as well as their bread-and-butter .308 and .223 self-loaders. One of their more interesting pieces is their new .308 AR-10B patterned along the lines of the original AR-10. Light and handy, it is a well-made and good-looking rifle, and sure to be popular.

COLOMBIAN CROSSROADS

II PART

Lessons From Vietnam

TEXT & PHOTOS
BY DR. TOM MARKS

FARC internal documents reveal it is Bloque Oriental (Eastern Bloque — see map, page 46) that has been designated the leading edge of FARC effort, since it dominates what the movement calls the “center of strategic deployment” (*centro de despliegue estrategico*), the Cordillera Oriental area of which the *Zona de Despeje* (see Map 2) is a key part. All other Bloques are to support its actions focused there.

To that end, the *Zona* has been used in an effort to greatly expand Bloque Oriental's combat power. Particularly noteworthy in captured FARC video footage, augmented by COLAR combat tapes, is the dramatic decrease of the average FARC combatant age, as impressments have been stepped up. Such kidnapping is intended to flesh out and multiply the combat units that operate within each front (the so-called “650 Companies” campaign).

To up combatant firepower, key units — but especially those from Bloque Oriental — have been issued East German-manufactured AKMs provided by corrupt Peruvian officials (after legal shipment from Jordan). Impact of this influx of these high-quality weapons immediately became apparent on the battlefield.

Previously, stocks of captured weapons, held at COLAR brigades, evinced a decidedly mixed parentage,

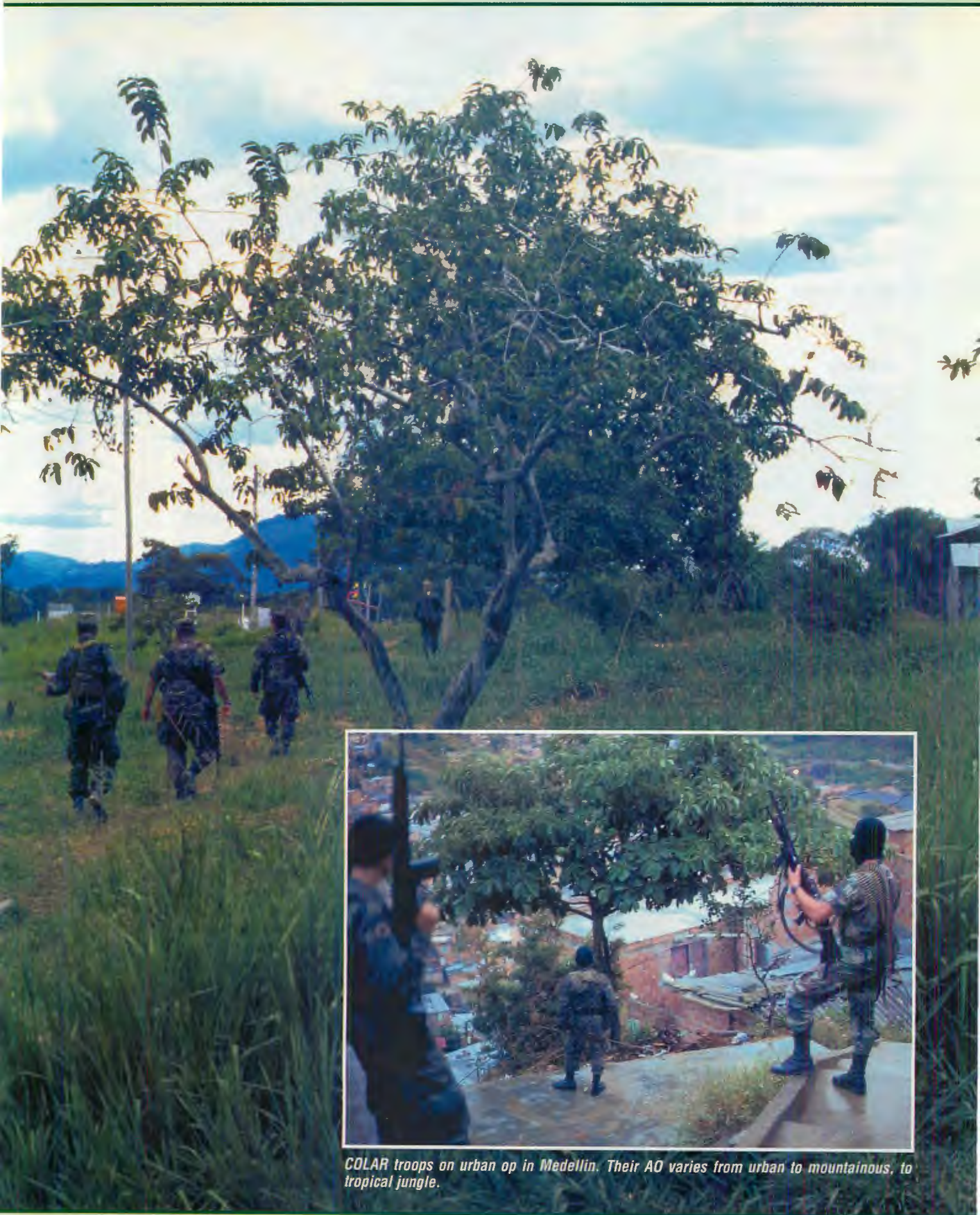
with healthy percentages from Venezuelan official stocks and Norinco batches imported originally by California firms (as evidenced by dealer stamps), in addition to the expected captured Galils. This multiplicity of pieces, though, seems to have been replaced, particularly in Bloque Oriental, by the AKMs

Bloque Oriental, as it has increased its combatant numbers and improved its weaponry, has been the linchpin of the mobile war approach, launching three major maneuver (light infantry) actions using the *Zona* as its base from which to strike: the offensives of July 1999, November 1999, and July 2000. Yet each of these, as with the actions of 1996, 1997, and 1998, has been accompanied by the normal guerrilla activity and assassinations, both within Bloque Oriental area and throughout the remainder of the country.

Indeed, what sets this central theater of operations apart is not the tactics but the operational art involved. The July 2000 attack, for instance, involved coordinated units from two different Bloques, Oriental and Central, and was intended to lead to future actions.

As noted in last month's article, such attacks feature very heavy (in terms of guerrilla warfare), coordinated *columnas*, comprising task-organized manpower drawn from different Fronts.





COLAR troops on urban op in Medellin. Their AO varies from urban to mountainous, to tropical jungle.



Disposition map of FARC forces shows some 16,592 combatants, divided into five Bloques de Frente (blocs of fronts) and two Cdos Conjuntos (Group Commands, blocs still standing up), two Bloques Mviles (mobile blocs). There are 66 Cuadrillas (Fronts), 14 Columnas (columns), 19 compañías (companies), four Frentes Urb. (urban fronts), 2 unidades (organizations), and one escuela (secretariat and general staff).

A Front is an area command, which controls clandestine infrastructure and the guerrilla units (plus militia) that protect the "shadow government." Fronts have available to them organic military and militia units. In addition, there are three levels of independent combat power: companies, and mobile blocs that are assigned as needed. Always, units attempt to recruit additional manpower to become the next higher-level unit.



"Task forces" have been standard since the COLAR counter in July 1999 all but wiped out the manpower of two Fronts, creating for FARC a serious morale problem.

Such *columnas* are approximately battalion strength. When wedded to the other elements of FARC's mobile warfare doctrine (use of indirect fires, armor, sappers and air defense), these become elements theoretically capable of engaging their COLAR counterparts.

That they have proved unable to do so stems from a basic error, assessed thus by a COLAR general officer: "FARC continues to seriously underestimate the capabilities of a modern army which is performing in proper fashion."

Dramatic as such action is, however,

Elite Lanceros compare favorably with troops in any military, anywhere.

the ultimate danger lies in FARC's recognition of its relative political underdevelopment and its vigorous steps to rectify that situation. Most interesting is its explicit assumption of the communist mantle, not just in-country via the Clandestine Colombian Communist Party (PCCC), but also internationally, where it now presents itself in much the same fashion as did *Sendero Luminoso* in Peru, as the torch-bearer for the wounded international Marxist-Leninist forces.

Thus it has established party schools and worked to expand not only cadre, but the political educational level of military commanders. The schooling system is intended to solidify the FARC Marxist-Leninist ideological position, with all commanders being required to pass through ideological indoctrination curricula.

These are formally established, with programs of instruction (POI) and texts. COLAR sources interviewed in February 2001 indicated that they had not yet obtained these materials, which might well have actually been seized but remained at lower levels, given the low priority attached to such as compared to more traditional order of battle (OB) data.



FARC prisoners in San Jose, a 14-year-old girl (front), and a man of about 20 (rear), both brought in AKM assault rifles.

To cast its net still further, FARC has publicly advanced its national front, the Bolivarian Movement for a New Colombia. Hand-in-hand with this has gone expansion of the militia, to pro-

tect "liberated" territory, to the point that many of these local forces in the field are now armed with high-powered firearms (HPF), to include AKMs from the East German stock.

Battered Democracy Struggles On

Given its history, it is evident that FARC is in many respects a large *foco* in search of a mass base. This it has achieved to some extent, together with funding, as a result of the 1982 decision (at the national conference) to link up with the drug production populations and to tax that drug production process.

What is significant, since the creation of the *Zona*, is not the increase in the number of FARC combatants — almost 100% in some units — but rather the growth of the infrastructure behind this increase. This infrastructure has hitherto been rudimentary but now shows, for the first time, signs of vitality that manages to grow in the strategic space provided by inept government approach. If such efforts at establishing a strong infrastructure get off the ground, FARC will be a much more dangerous foe than before.

Isolating The Insurgents

To prevent this, COLAR has proceeded to identify, prioritize, and attack the mobility corridors in each FARC area, so as to prevent access to populated zones, by either guerrilla units or the much larger mobile warfare



columns. It is the battle over these unseen “highways” that has driven much of the action of the last several years. Beginning in 2001, the army moved on to attacking the base areas used to “generate” FARC combat power.

Nevertheless, the contradiction in the government position is well understood by the Colombian military. The security forces have been fully occupied with their first priority, getting their house in order so that they can address the full range of the FARC threat, from terror to guerrilla warfare to mobile war.

They have demonstrated that they are quite capable of responding to difficult circumstances, and the victories have followed. There is satisfaction in this, but that is the trap General Westmoreland fell into in Vietnam, where the means became the strategic end. The Colombian military recognizes the dilemma. There is no shortage of officers who have read the basic texts on the Vietnam War.

FARC, in fact, has responded as did the communists in Vietnam, by returning to the domination of the human terrain. In this, it has proved every bit as ruthless as the Viet Cong. Torture and assassination, not to mention kidnapping and extortion, are so common as to go almost without comment except in the most extreme cases.

That there are echoes of Vietnam in the FARC approach should not be surprising. FARC (and also ELN) was trained directly by the FMLN of El Salvador. The FMLN, in turn, was trained, both at home and through personnel sent abroad, by Vietnam. FARC manuals are very similar to FMLN manuals. And anyone reading either would swear he was having a flashback to the American involvement in Indochina. Strategically, operationally, tactically, it is the Vietnamese approach.

What is that approach? Key is the constant interplay between the political and the military — with the Maoist template, if anything, being regarded by the Vietnamese as too militaristic and parochial in its emphases (not enough emphasis upon fostering “international solidarity,” for instance). On the ground, the Vietnamese emphasize that the “three stages” occur *simultaneously as dictated by local circumstances*, the so-called “war of interlocking.”

The greater level of command and control made possible by modern, off-the-shelf communications gear coordinates lower levels of activity so that



Veteran of a dozen battles with FARC and with the COLAR UN troops in the Sinai, trooper Cortez typifies the indefatigable professionalism we found among Colombian military.

they support, or become part of, higher levels. Widely dispersed guerrilla attacks, for example, have both local objectives and prepare the way for mobile warfare operations.

This brings us back to the problems with Bogota's approach until now, pursued at U.S. urging: a country the size of California, Nevada, Utah, and Idaho (or, if one looks to Europe: France, Spain, and Portugal) has in effect 30-45,000 personnel performing as firemen. They have a well-developed approach, which should ultimately prove successful, but victories cannot be considered secure in the absence of government popular mobilization to hold ground.

Controlling The Isolated Areas

FARC understands this, and has been pursuing successive domination of areas with a vengeance. Recognizing that for the moment it cannot go head-to-head with the armed forces, it is again concentrating upon hitting iso-

lated, static police positions and uncooperative mayors.

The need, then, is for local forces that can secure the ground. No counterinsurgency can be won without them, for they are the only way in which human terrain can be dominated. Yet in Colombia, as part of the 1990-91 settlement with another insurgent group, M-19, a prohibition was written into the constitution against armed bodies operating outside of the armed forces and police.

Rather than dealing with this in straightforward fashion, as has every other system fighting internal war, by mobilizing anti-insurgent “people's war” as military auxiliaries, the Colombian political and judicial systems have fumbled and done nothing. They have then blamed the security forces when the vacuum created in this vast country has been filled by the autonomous self-defense groups (*autodefensas*) that have sprung up everywhere — and continue to do so.

By refusing to work with Bogota to find an approach to popular mobilization that will work, Washington and its European counterparts have made the situation worse. Indeed, they have demanded that the military spread itself still more thinly by “going after” yet another foe, the *autodefensas* — “paramilitaries,” as they are frequently called in the English-language press — and that the police be increased in numbers.

Heart of American assistance, though, is the \$1.3 billion aid package to support the counter-drug component of “Plan Colombia,” the scheme for putting Colombia on the path to peace, which was hatched several years ago with U.S. aid. Most of the U.S. contribution is to support eradication efforts in the southern areas, where a great deal of Colombian cocaine is produced — and where FARC is present in force. The danger, of course, lies in the fact that American money, eagerness, and know-how can become a source of strategic distortion.

Thus, even as politicians on both sides engaged in the campaign necessary to obtain the assistance, the security forces kept a close eye on what was demanded as the *quid pro quo*. At one point, COLAR (which was to field, with training from U.S. 7th Special Forces Group personnel, a new counter-drug brigade) favored outright rejection of the package. But Colombia's politicians wanted it, which resulted in creation of a military within the military, a special

(right) For insurgents, guns are where you find them: In this case the Norinco AKM copy came from the American heartland — Clay Center, Kansas. Other Norincos captured in this batch came from Los Angeles, and Long Beach, Calif., importers.

(below) Major General Ospina, IV Division CG, holds AKM rifle captured in Mitu. As probably the best-funded insurgency in his history thanks to their tax liaison with the narco-traffickers, FARC has also become one of the best armed.



“drug-fighting” component.

To compartmentalize the “U.S. component” of the struggle — to seal off as much as possible Colombia’s overall campaign from the possible meddling of American politicians responding to their perceived domestic concerns — Bogota detached the extreme south of the country comprising the departments of Putumayo, and Caqueta, and made it a special counter-narcotics zone — Joint Task Force South (JTFS), to use the designation normally found in U.S. sources. There, the U.S.-aided counter-drug campaign could focus upon eradication. In the rest of the country, the security forces could engage in counterinsurgency.

Contradictions Guarantee Pathos

Yet Colombia’s forces are numerically quite inadequate for a campaign in the geographical and human areas involved — neither do they have adequate operational funding. Ergo, we find ourselves back at the *autodefensas*, who — authorized or no, legal or not — have filled the vacuum and engaged in some of the most vicious fighting against FARC (and ELN).

And they make no bones about their favored methodology: to go after the insurgent infrastructure. In internal war, there is no way around the reality that a vacuum will be filled. By refusing to mobilize the population, Bogota insures that people’s war is waged out of control in every nook and cranny. By encouraging Colombia to adhere to this misguided approach, the U.S. pours oil on the flames. The result in many areas is pathos.

Worse than this, the U.S. gives voice to human rights activists whose prime target appears to be the government. This has made it doubly dangerous to be an army officer, for it means a multi-front war. What many Colombian sources have taken to calling the

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The Pursuit Of Intelligence

Battles And Wars Lost From Bad Intel

BY CARL BERNARD

BECAUSE

reliable military intelligence is crucial in all stages of preparation, it holds high priority with our nation's leaders. They have underwritten vast international systems of data collection and analysis.

Unfortunately, size is not a guarantor of reliability. Reliability requires that the intelligence be timely and correctly processed from accurate data.

If any of these three elements are compromised, reliability suffers. This paper will point to several examples in recent national history when the lack of accurate, timely, or misinterpreted intelligence has led directly to national failures. Our seemingly endemic failure to acquire and process relevant information into effective intelligence is one of the most damning of our various recurring faults. It has sometimes caused horrific damage.

Ages ago, Sun Tzu insisted that knowing the enemy was essential. We did not know our enemy in Vietnam and our situation was further abraded by our military and political chiefs not knowing our own forces' capabilities, nor the culture that shaped our allies and, even more embarrassing, not even our allies' languages. The question: "Why do their Vietnamese fight and ours do not?" was posed often during that conflict. We refused to confront the correct answers to this because it would have made our inappropriate, even bankrupt, tactics and policies undeniable, invalidating our continued presence. We preferred posting a half-million sol-

The first day of the infamous Tet offensive, 31 January 1968, caught American forces off-guard. MPs take cover after VC guerrillas invaded grounds of the U.S. Embassy compound during early hours of the offensive.

AP/Hong Seong-Chan





diers there to do what we knew how to do — fight a conventional war — rather than learn to fight the unconventional people's war we had entrapped ourselves in.

Our proclivity to ignore or misunderstand advice from allies is well known.

Our blatant Vietnam displays of this talent were exposed in two recent books, *Prelude to Tragedy*, by Harvey Neese and John O'Donnell, and *Backfire*, by Loren Baritz. In *Prelude to Tragedy*, three driving, long-lived American faults are discussed: 1) supporting the *coup* that eliminated President Diem, 2) constant bureaucratic infighting, and 3) our near total misconception of the "people's war" in which we had intervened. Clearly, we had no practical understanding of how to fight it. The decision to commit U.S. forces to fight the GVN's war was made with ignorance of an unusually gross dimension. In *Backfire* the author also contends, in powerful language and with undeniable logic, that our near total unfamiliarity with the culture of Vietnam was matched by an equally disabling lack of knowledge about ourselves and the war we were fighting.

Lessons Earned

In 1962, the French provided three detailed volumes of their "lessons learned" from Vietnam to the Army's Special

No ship suffered greater damage or loss of life during the Pearl Harbor attack than the U.S.S. Arizona. In the blinding flash & searing flames that consumed the ship, 1,177 men lost their lives.

Warfare School with an admonition to avoid the errors described. A much-abridged translation was published several years later by the Rand Corporation, but read by very few of our policy makers and evidently understood by none. The French Colonel Roger Trinquier's, *La Guerre Moderne* (translated as *Modern Warfare*) is a careful definition and examination of "Peoples' War," learned well by him from the Vietnamese. It was, and remains, the type of warfare against which our tanks, B-52s and aircraft carriers could not prevail. Our failure to learn from this available information led to our appalling casualties and eventual collapse in Vietnam. *Prelude's* clearly stated central theme is that our willful disdain of an enemy we did not understand, hence, knew not how to fight, prevented us from winning the war.

Its authors unveil behavior of several U.S. central bureaucracies that made our defeat inevitable. Our senior officials' ignorance of the phenomenon of People's War was complete. Had they assimilated the French data, their altered perceptions might have reduced the deplorable list of casualties on the



Belgrade TV shows the city burning in the wake of NATO bombing raids, after Milosevic misjudged NATO's willingness to bomb the Serbian capitol.

Memorial Wall. The combat tactics and structure of our forces, readied to defend against an armored attack of Warsaw Pact forces through Germany's Fulda Gap, were altogether inappropriate when transferred to Vietnam. The effect was as absurd as if we attempted to seize an enemy warship at sea using paratroops. We were not fighting the war that engulfed us.

Backfire, Loren Baritz's indictment of our mismanagement of the People's War that we were fighting but did not understand, is focused on our cultural capability that enables us to ignore reality. "Why do their Vietnamese fight and ours don't?" A central, applicable lesson from Vietnam is the potency of what we have mislabeled "brain-washing." Its most important use was the indoctrination and dedication imposed on the Viet Cong to execute their missions. The French documents thoroughly discuss the "auto-critique" and "speak bitterness" tools, and the dedication this training method gave their adversaries. We also were exposed to its results, but never did understand its efficacy for those we were fighting. We still have not understood that its techniques were a major reason we were out-fought by them. Those techniques made the difference between the indifferent soldiers of our South Vietnamese ally and the first-rate soldiers of the North Vietnamese enemy, and their Viet Cong allies in the South. Why did we not listen to our French allies when they tried to inform us? Perhaps our cultural arrogance that keeps us from knowing our allies — or even their language!

Ignorance — in all three military services, and in USAID, the State Department and the CIA as well — virtually assured that our decision-makers would not have unbiased,

disinterested information. Advice given by functionaries in these entrenched bureaucracies was not simply a patent concoction of some liars attempting to mislead for personal advantage. These were honest — but ignorant and arrogant — authorities who knew little, but had no idea that much of what they thought was true — was not so.

Fictional Communications Reports

The recent *mea culpa* of Robert MacNamara, the SECDEF of this era, in his book *Argument Without End*, validates these multiple, severe descriptions of the securely ensconced chiefs in uniformed as well as civil bureaucracies. Each described the wonders his own service would accomplish, and then, when they failed, perfunctorily requested another increase in its committed force.

In Vietnam, communications from the field to headquarters were seldom permitted to include setbacks or program failures. Rather, success had to be reported. At times, reportage of intelligence employees was implausible, even laughable, to colleagues from other agencies and services. Intelligence employees even hampered relations with our Vietnamese allies in that they would describe themselves as being "from the Embassy." When officers from the Embassy had to deal with Vietnamese who had been in contact with U.S. intelligence employees, the Vietnamese quickly assumed that the Embassy officers were simply more CIA agents roaming the country.

It probably is fair to speculate that useful, accurate intelligence might have averted two wars. Had Dean Acheson better intelligence about the Far East and Korea, in particular, he might not have made the speech in which he said that Korea and other areas were outside the sphere of U.S. interest.

That virtually handed North Korea a license to invade South Korea. Had our Ambassador to Iraq in 1990 had better

intelligence, her audience with Saddam Hussein might well have avoided conveying to him that he could invade Kuwait with impunity.

Several recent books reveal how our Cold War with the Soviet Union nearly heated up to fissionable temperature, precipitated by insufficient intelligence on both sides. (In the new Dark Ages that we narrowly avoided, these accounts might still have been written, but with pieces of charcoal on flattened walls of buildings in both countries.) Sergei Khrushchev's story of the career of his father, *Nikita Khrushchev, and the Creation of a Super Power*, relates the Soviet side of the fury that caused his father to dispatch their missiles to Cuba.

The British historian, Robert Surface, supplies in his recent work, *Lenin*, an enlightening stage setter and introduction for Josef Stalin's control of the Soviet Union. Khrushchev's denunciation of Stalin's dictatorial rule three years after his death made him a respected figure to some communist officials, but anathema to many others. It was a driving factor in his abrupt removal from office in 1964.

Mikhail Gorbachev's memoirs provides his reaction to Khrushchev's removal and a studied, credible account of its effects on the Soviet Union. Gorbachev's sponsorship of *Glasnost* and *Perestroika*, based on his conviction that the structure and mission of the Politburo had to be reformed, lights a political/historical path all thinking Americans should survey.



Newscorn/Van Milutinovic REUTERS

People lay in an intensive care unit after they were injured when two NATO missiles hit a retirement home during airstrikes over the town of Surdulica south of Belgrade, May 31, 1999. Seventeen patients were killed and 38 were injured, hospital workers said.

These books strongly reinforce my long-standing contention that improving the qualifications of our intelligence officers is crucial for national security. Our world has undergone enormous changes with entirely new kinds of terrorist threats. Civil and holy wars require new approaches by intelligence services. Our defense establishment must accommodate today's environment and give up the outmoded tactics and practices of yesteryears'. We then had negligible information on what really was motivating the Russians and how they perceived our various actions toward them. And today, will our National Missile Defense initiative provoke them

similarly? Adequate, reliable intelligence might inform us.

What can be done? One improvement would be to change the practice of assigning less competent personnel to intelligence positions. Over my long army career, the way we located the least competent captain in an infantry battalion was by calling for the S-2. The least competent major was the regimental S-2. Has this changed? I hope so, but if not, it is a practice that must be stopped. These faults persisted in my day because troop units always needed the best officers available, and the operational, logistic, and personnel officers were also needed every day. The intelligence officer's role was esoteric, hence his post would be filled by whoever was available.

We certainly should make better use than in the past of employees of non-intelligence agencies. During the Vietnam War, some of the political officers furnished by the State Department to Corps and Province teams were far more effective than those of our own meager military resources. The Vietnamese of both factions accepted one of these people working for John Paul Vann as readily as if he were one of the French planters they knew well. He was given information

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Photos: Newscorn/Kan Lambert/Washington Times via Newsmakers



When bad targeting intelligence resulted in a strike on the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade, CIA Director George Tenet (inset) had to explain things to a House panel. Error cost immeasurable support among NATO allies for the bombing of Serbia.

WAR CRIMES

And Punishment

New World Order To Try Milosevic

BY FRANK HOPKINS


Photographers snapped pictures and ran video as Slobodan Milosevic was escorted across a lonely tarmac to a waiting plane for his transfer to The Hague. Ironically, the end of his tenure as a Serb leader, and the beginning of his time as an incarcerated war criminal awaiting trial occurred on Vidovan, the 612th anniversary of the battle of Kosovo — when, as only the Serbs could do, a national myth and holiday was established in their defeat at the hands of the Turks. This Serb national holiday, obscure and insignificant to

the rest of the world, has had global importance. Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated by Gavrilo Princip on this date, igniting World War I. And Milosevic himself engineered the cornerstone speech of his career on this date in 1989 in Kosovo — promising to defend Serbs in the province.

Although it is generally agreed that Milosevic's trial will last years, the outcome will be viewed by history as less important than his walk across the tarmac and how he got there. True, it was the Serbian government that turned Milosevic over (without informing

Vojislav Kostunica, the elected president), in what many will judge to be a commercial act: Milosevic for money. There is more than \$1.3 billion in much needed aid tied to the transfer of Milosevic. And for most Serbs, the boost that will mean to their economy should not be underestimated.

It is also significant that Milosevic was never tried in his own country, under their laws. As if by design, this spares the Serbs themselves from the spectacle of a local trial, and the microscope any verdict would be put under. It also feeds the need of the Serb psy-



che for a scapegoat, with just a hint of martyrdom — but not too much. Had the United States or some other NATO government captured Milosevic and turned him over to The Hague, the specter of an illegal kidnapping would have overshadowed the crimes he is accused of committing.

Instead, Milosevic has the dubious honor of being the first elected president to be indicted and then transferred to a body of international justice. And that is what history will record. And only history will show whether or not this is a trend of the new century, or a trivia question for future history students and a holdover of the tribal wars in the Balkans at the end of the last millennium.

International Criminal Tribunal

If ever there was a case where the fickle tastes of the nightly news shaped an event, it may be this one. Whereas the World Court adjudicates civil disputes among nations (border claims, treaty disputes, etc.) with no power of enforcement or punishment, the International Criminal Tribunal — located in The Hague — is charged with prosecuting and judging war crimes in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia.

The fact that Milosevic was ever released into the custody of this body is largely due to the efforts of one person: Canadian law professor Louise Arbour who in the fall of 1996 was named as chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal. Arbour was well aware that any credibility this international body of law would have would depend solely on the cooperation and recognition it received from participating nations. While tasked with the responsibility of investigating and prosecuting acts of genocide, violations of the code of war and crimes against humanity, the practicality of the matter meant she could do little on her own.

Arbour inherited the work of her predecessor: 76 indictments against not only Bosnian Serbs for crimes against Bosnian Muslims, but also Croats and Bosnian Muslims as well. There also was one arrest to their credit. Arbour went to work streamlining the indictments and working for more arrests. But what she still lacked was credibility in the eyes of the press, governments and people.

What Arbour needed was a test case — a case that would show these crimes had consequences. At the time, there was considerable question as to the validity of her organization. After all, there had already been over 250,000 killed in the

Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, center, is escorted by two men into Scheveningen prison in The Hague early Friday, June 29, 2001 in this image taken from television. Milosevic arrived at Scheveningen prison of The Hague War Crimes tribunal by helicopter early Friday.



AP Photo/courtesy of NOS Television

Balkans, and over 500,000 in Rwanda (these are estimates; the true numbers will, of course, never be known).

Unwittingly, Milosevic provided the International Criminal Tribunal and Arbour with the incident they needed. Forty-five Albanian men, women and children were taken into the woods near the village of Racak in Kosovo, and murdered by Serbian security forces on 15 January 1999. Arbour headed for Macedonia to investigate the crime. She was stopped at the border and not allowed into Kosovo by Serb border guards.

At first it appeared that these 45 deaths would be added to the tally of hundreds of thousands already ignored by all. But the media changed the course of things. This atrocity, unlike the others before it, and for no particular reason, had legs. It had all the makings of a rally cry. After years of Western hand wringing over the bloodshed in the Balkans, military and political forces seemed to be finally moving in unison towards a showdown.

In the center of this maelstrom, was Arbour and the International Criminal Tribunal. The media was not only reporting about the atrocities, evidence of crimes, and the rejection of the internationally recognized judicial investigative authority (Arbour) at the border — but people were listening.



AP Photo/Dusan Vranic

Chief prosecutor of the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal Louise Arbour adjusts her glasses during a news conference in The Hague Wednesday March 31, 1999. Arbour was appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada on Thursday June 10, 1999. The new chief prosecutor for the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal will be appointed by the United Nation's Security Council.

Months later when NATO began the first war in its history, it was the Serbs' noncompliance with Arbour's attempted investigation of war crimes that was touted as one reason for war.

Mission Statement

On 29 March 1999, Britain's Foreign

Secretary, Robin Cook, set the stage for what was to come, "Anyone who carries out atrocities against the civilian population, anyone who gives orders for them to carry it out, or is complicit in those orders being given, and anyone who fails to prevent such orders or fails to prevent those orders being carried out — anyone in any of those categories is liable to face indictment." In essence, Cook summed up a mission statement for the International Criminal Tribunal. Understanding that Arbour's organization has absolutely no jurisdiction, no authority, and no power other than that given to her by participating nations, she just received the tools she needed to do her job.

Indeed, if the International Criminal Tribunal was being used by Western countries and NATO as a tool of convenience, it served everyone well. While the NATO bombs were falling, Arbour began to make her case for the indictment of Milosevic. How, she argued, could Karadzic and Mladic be indicted, and not Milosevic? NATO and the West seemed to agree. Now that they were in an actual shooting war, there seemed to be no need to tiptoe around any delicacies of indicting an elected head of state.

Arbour also argued to be allowed to enter Kosovo as an independent investigator. Brilliantly, she explained that NATO needed her to not only search for evidence of war crimes committed by Serbs on behalf of Milosevic, but also to look for a lack of evidence of

International Criminal Tribunal

- The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia was established by Security Council Resolution 827 on 25 May 1993.
- Located in The Hague, The Netherlands.
- ICTY is mandated to prosecute and try persons allegedly responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed on the territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991:
 - Grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Conventions (Article 2)
 - Violations of the laws or customs of war (Article 3)
 - Genocide (Article 4)
 - Crimes against humanity (Article 5)
 - As of April 2001, there are 1,103 staff members from 74 countries.
 - ICTY has an annual budget for 2001 of \$96,443,900 dollars.
 - There are currently 67 outstanding public indictments issued by the ICTY with 39 individuals detained, 3 released, and 25 accused at large.
- Of the detained, 8 were arrested by national police, 14 surrendered voluntarily, and 20 were apprehended by international forces.
- Types of crimes:
 - 39 for grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva convention
 - 70 for violations of the laws or customs of war
 - 12 for genocide
 - 63 for crimes against humanity
 - 20 for sexual offenses

— courtesy U.N.

war crimes committed by NATO. NATO agreed. That way, they would have an argument against any Serb accusations that the killings and destruction was caused by the West.

On 22 May 1999, Judge David Anthony Hunt of the International Criminal Tribunal signed the indictment and warrants for the arrest of Slobodan Milosevic, President of Yugoslavia; Milan Milutinovic, President of Serbia; Nikola Sainovic, Deputy Prime Minister of Yugoslavia; Colonel General Dragoljub Ojdanic, military commander of Serb forces in Kosovo; and Vlajko Stojiljkovic, head of Serbian police forces.

The indictment reads:

... between 1 January 1999 and 20 June 1999, the 52nd Corps of the Armed Forces of the FRY (VJ), the police forces of the FRY, police forces of Serbia and paramilitary units acting at the direction, with the encouragement, or with the support of the accused, executed a campaign of terror and violence directed at the Kosovo Albanian civilians.

It is alleged that the operations targeting the Kosovo Albanians were undertaken with the objective of removing a substantial portion of the Kosovo Albanian population from Kosovo in an effort to ensure continued Serbian control over the province. The indictment goes on to describe a series of well-planned and coordinated operations which the above forces, acting in concert, employed to achieve this objective.

Approximately 740,000 Kosovo

Albanian civilians were expelled from the province by forced removal, and subsequent looting and destruction of their homes, or by the shelling of villages. Surviving residents were sent to the borders of neighboring countries. En route many were killed, abused and had their possessions and identification papers stolen. Furthermore, specific massacres took place in such places as ...

The Dictator Who Won't Leave

Weeks later, when the air war ended on 10 June 1999, Arbour's investigators entered Kosovo. For the first time in the tribunal's history, they were able to gather an unprecedented amount of hard evidence of the crimes committed.

After the air war ended, there was hope that Milosevic would be driven out of power. Unfortunately, this is a hope the West seems to always hold out in vain after military action. NATO's battle plan seemed to be to fight the war, and leave the political ouster of their leader up to the population. It did not happen in Iraq, largely due to American and Allied inaction and a lack of any real support for the very groups the West pinned their hopes on.

The same happened in Belgrade. Although thousands of demonstrators filled the streets in opposition to the dictator, Milosevic stayed. What is significant throughout all of this is that the indictment stood. Even after the media coverage died down, and people forgot where Belgrade and Kosovo were, the tribunal was still taken seri-

ously by the West.

Even when Milosevic was finally voted out of power and replaced by Vojislav Kostunica in 2000, the indictments never went away. More and more it seemed that it was not a question of if Milosevic would be turned over to authorities, but when. The questions Yugoslavia faced as a sovereign entity all concerned the mechanics of the process, not the outcome.

President Kostunica seemed to favor corruption trials in Yugoslavia, possibly with the tribunal's presence. But again, the specter of a lengthy trial with demonstrations for both sides made that option unlikely — and it would delay the release of more than one billion in aid money.

By the end of January 2001, the pressure was on Milosevic. He was placed under 24-hour surveillance by Serb police. The interior minister acknowledged, "There is a U.N. war crimes tribunal warrant for Milosevic and the local judiciary is investigating charges of his abuse of power here."

By now there is no discussion or dispute about jurisdiction, sovereignty or authority. Everyone has bought in to the validity of the International Criminal Tribunal. Pragmatists may argue with some fact, that the tribunal has simply become a pawn of the West and a convenient means to rid itself of a distasteful dictator — a means by which everyone can wash their hands of the unpleasantness. NATO's move to work with the tribunal and escort the investigators into Kosovo will always be looked upon by some as a means to ensure NATO was never indicted for their conduct of the war.

Furthermore, because of the air campaign against Milosevic's regime, there remains the stigma of the victors judging the vanquished — robbing any trial of the airs of impartiality. And that will remain, but the argument loses some merit when the amount of time between the end of the air war and the actual arrest — two years — is taken into consideration.

Regardless of any of the sniping that will take place over the outcome of Milosevic's trial. What remains undeniable is that an international body of justice accomplished what no other nation would or could: the capture of a head of state for the purpose of trial and punishment of suspected war crimes. This may be a New World Order trend.

Frank Hopkins is a frequent contributor to Soldier Of Fortune magazine. ✉



The Secretariat building at United Nations headquarters lights up "UN 2000" for the new year while the top of the Empire State Building glows in Christmas red and green Tuesday, Dec. 28, 1999, in New York.



FROM BANK ROBBERS TO BOMBERS?

PHOTOS COURTESY PREMIER BROADCASTING & PUBLISHING COMPANY, LTD.

There are few figures in criminal history with as bizarre a track record as Richard "Wild Bill" Guthrie. A SEAL washout with a genius for creating false IDs and staging near-flawless bank robberies in the early 90s, Wild Bill patched together a rag-tag group of white supremacists that authorities dubbed, "The Midwest Bank Bandits." Guthrie and sidekick, Peter Kevin Langan, chose another name for the group: The Aryan Republican Army (ARA). Besides plundering banks, "Guthrie and Company" had their political sights set on other goals. Topping the gang's wish list was the violent overthrow of the federal establishment. Following that, a strong dose of ethnic cleansing was in store for America.

What Was McVeigh's Link To The Midwest Bank Bandits?

BY J.D. CASH
AND
ROGER CHARLES

On A Mission From *Yahweh*

Indeed, it was a strange mix of juices that ran through this little known far-right figure.

After a five-year gig in the Navy — that ended with Guthrie doing brig-time for assaulting an officer, painting a swastika on a ship and going AWOL — the renegade turned his allegiance to the Aryan Nations and Christian Identity.

Wild Bill began traveling the country, visiting the leadership, studying tapes and reading books on Identity from such figures in the Movement as William Pierce, Pete Peters, Louis Beam, Thom Robb, Robert Millar, Mark Thomas and Richard Butler.

Irrespective of his exposure to religion, by the time the ARA's master plan

was in place, Wild Bill was spending his weekends sucking down beer and watching reruns of his favorite television show, *The Simpson's*.

But then on Sunday evenings a select group of well-trained young men would begin drifting into Guthrie's middleclass rental.

Located on Elm Street, a quiet street in the southeast Kansas college town of Pittsburg, the "company safehouse" could accommodate several of these Identity skinheads. The bungalow even had a full basement for the gang's unique gear and was a perfect spot for "Bible studies."

At dawn the boys would pile go-bags, containing the tools of their trade, into a bright blue extended van that Guthrie dubbed the *Blitzenwagen*. Neighbors later said they paid only passing notice to the comings and goings of what they assumed were college students.

Out on the interstate, these cells of three to five men would carefully monitor police scanners as they made their way to a predetermined city where numerous banks would be appraised. In the van were wigs, masks, costumes of all sorts, fake IDs, bags of bombs — some real, some fake — and enough firepower to hold off a dozen federal agents.

The skinheads received their paramilitary training at Elohim City, an Identity stronghold in eastern Oklahoma. The man in charge of bringing these recruits up to speed was, "Andy the German" Strassmeir (aka Mr. Red).

After enduring months of the former *Bundeswehr* officer's live-fire exercises and swimming through icy waters in the dead of winter — getting out in the field and conducting operations for the ARA was a vacation.



Richard Guthrie after his arrest. What secrets did he know that he took with him to the grave?

While the take might be as little as \$2,500, or as much as \$35,000, the proceeds were carved-up in much the same way: A percentage would be held back for company expenses — and a proper tithe was forwarded to the upper echelons of the White Power Movement. The remainder of what Guthrie referred to as, "Jewish toilet paper" was split among gang members involved with the heist.

Once the accounting was performed, the younger men scattered to the wind.

Dangerous Dude

On 17 August 1994, several letters and cards were postmarked in Syracuse, New York. One was mailed to Georgia's Franklin County Sheriff, Hugh Roach.

Roach had investigated an October 1992 robbery that Guthrie and Langan

pulled at a Pizza Hut, in Lavonia. After the investigation, Roach and others provided information to the Secret Service. Locals had overheard Guthrie bragging that he intended to kill President George Bush.

The Secret Service took the information seriously. They located and raided a trailer house Guthrie had occupied. They missed their primary target but in early November of 1992 they caught up with Pete Langan in Cincinnati. They took the ex-con in on weapons violations. Thereafter, Guthrie would take time from his busy schedule to drop his old nemesis a note.

Over time the taunting grew bolder.

On 24 May 1995 — five weeks after the OKC bombing — the ARA celebrated the heavily televised implosion of the stricken Murrah Building by robbing a bank in Louisville, Kentucky.

During the robbery, Guthrie entered the bank with face darkened and ranted at the customers and bank employees in Spanish.

Three months later, Guthrie and some of his men were eating lunch in Bridgeton, Missouri, when they spotted the Magna Bank across the street. Wild Bill liked what he saw.

The usual process was followed: The getaway vehicle would be left at an apartment complex parking lot with a note on the dash that said the car had mechanical problems and the owner would return in a few days for it.

Using aliases, the ARA paid cash for motel rooms rented several miles from the bank. For the next few days, the ARA would case the bank until everything was perfect. On this particular job, Guthrie told the boys to wear FBI and ATF ballcaps when they burst into the bank. On 16 August 1995, the oper-



(above) Cash in-hand, ARA thief vaults over a teller's counter during one of their operations. Over time, the ARA's techniques were honed to near-perfection. Peter Langan (right) during one of his many bank heists. He, too, might possess knowledge that the OKC Bombing was, indeed, an atrocity committed by Tim McVeigh — and others.

ation went forward and lasted less than 60 seconds.

When the FBI finally discovered the getaway car, they also found an article about Tim McVeigh. Guthrie had even drawn a circle around the head of Janet Reno, whose picture was also in that issue of the paper. The Magna Bank job had taken place just one day after McVeigh and Nichols were arraigned in Oklahoma City. And, as usual, the gang got away without firing a shot.

The Sting

Even before Wild Bill was believed to have robbed his first bank, Secret Service profilers studied his "in your face" attitude and concluded Guthrie was dangerous.

From military records and informant reports, the Secret Service realized the subject's raw criminal cunning was fortified by Navy training in explosives and weaponry from the Redstone Arsenal, in Huntsville, Alabama, and EOD school, at Indian Head, Maryland.

As for propensity to inflict violence, Guthrie had already shot and wounded one of his brothers and had been arrested for assaulting a business associate.

Considered in conjunction with reports that Guthrie planned to assassinate President George Bush, the Secret Service concluded Wild Bill was a risk to national security. A contingent of federal agents was assigned to bring him in.

In August of 1993, agents pulled Guthrie confidant, Peter Langan, out of a Georgia county jail, where he was waiting trial on armed robbery charges. The agency leaned heavily on local officials to let them "borrow" Langan so they could put him to work for them.

The DA balked at the idea, and for good reason. Langan already had a record of one bloody shootout with police down in Florida and was also on record bragging to an uncover former police officer that he intended to bomb a federal building if he ever got out of jail. In spite of this, the Secret Service managed to arrange for Langan's release.

Langan manages to locate Guthrie, and ditches his handlers and takes off with his pal. The first stop will be the pine forests of the Ozark Mountains in northwestern Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma. Here Langan and Guthrie will fulfill their dream — recruit like-minded men to join their revolution.

When the district attorney for the Northern Judicial District of Georgia inquired how Langan's work for the Secret Service was progressing, Lindsay Tise received surprising news. The Secret Service told him that Langan would not be returning to Georgia to stand trial after all — *he was dead*.

Based upon that misrepresentation, a local judge signed-off on the matter and the DA tossed Langan's armed robbery case into the inactive file. Peter Kevin Langan (aka "Pedro Gomez")



Aryan Nation leader, Mark Thomas, at "Pretty Boy" Floyd's grave. Floyd hated the nickname because it wasn't macho.

was no more.

Thanks to the Secret Service, one of this nation's most dangerous partnerships had been formed. Peter Langan becomes "Commander Pedro" and Richard Guthrie assumes the title, "Commander Pavel." A growing body of evidence suggests that the residue of this partnership committed countless crimes over a three-year reign of terror, including robbing two-dozen banks and bombing a federal building — killing 168.

Rebirth Of The Silent Brotherhood

The Turner Diaries provide the operational framework for the gang. Guthrie and Langan will also borrow heavily from tactics employed by the Irish Republican Army.

After his arrest, Guthrie provided hours of details to the FBI about the gang's long-term plans to attack federal targets. The funding mechanism would come from bank robberies. Wild Bill named the plan after his favorite television character in *The Simpsons*.

Basic Armed Resistance Tactics, or B.A.R.T., was a plan that included the following elements:

- Rating each target as to location, highway access, parking lot location, number of employees, switch car location, escape route, size of the metropolitan area, traffic flow, etc.

- Timing was limited to a maximum of 45 seconds in the bank itself, which included one of the thieves vaulting the teller counter.

- Use of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in the bank and in the switch vehicle. The devices were sometimes strictly hoax devices to divert and delay law enforcement attention, but some were fashioned, mostly by Langan, as functional IEDs.



Timothy McVeigh gives an impromptu interview outside the Branch Davidian compound at Waco, days prior to the federal incineration of women, children and men.

- The plan called for purchasing a suitable getaway vehicle at a local buy-here, pay-here used car lot or from a private individual. The getaway vehicle would be stored in a parking lot of a 24-hour store if necessary.

- After an experience with exploding dye packs, they added to the B.A.R.T. checklist that the window on the getaway vehicle would be left open during the robbery.

(From FBI interviews: 4-15 March 1996.)

ARA Recruits

Also making a trip to the Ozarks in October of 1993 are Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols. Both are dead broke, both have military backgrounds and both are vehemently antigovernment. And, most appealing, Tim McVeigh is a decorated combat soldier and experienced armored car driver with two security jobs on his resume. Sergeant Mac is attractive to anyone looking for help robbing banks and armored cars.

Terry Nichols' military record is not much to brag on. But he is a rabid anti-tax protester and "talks-the-talk" as well as anyone in the Posse Comitatus. And, unlike most men in the movement, Nichols is disarming, clean-cut, knows weapons and his experience selling real estate and traveling the gun show circuit has made him something of a horse trader. These are precisely the kind of men Guthrie and Langan are looking for.

Robin Hood

Immediately after the brief trip to the southern climes, Tim McVeigh and Terry Nichols will gather at James Nichols' farm in upstate Michigan. Very shortly, tragedy will strike the farmhouse.

Terry Nichols' Philippine-born mail-



Camera-shy Andreas Strassmeir arrives back in Germany. How he flew beneath the feds' radar screen is open to speculation.

order wife discovers her three-year-old, illegitimate son suffocated in a trash bag. Immediately, McVeigh is a suspect. Marife Nichols refuses to believe her son's death is an accident. Local law enforcement does nothing to follow-up. No charges are filed in the case.

As soon as the funeral is over, Terry Nichols moves out of the Michigan farmhouse and takes his depressed wife to Las Vegas. After a few weeks of bitter fighting, he puts the young girl on a plane back to the Philippines and her family. It is a process that will repeat itself over the next 18 months.

Using the alias, Daryl Bridges, Nichols and McVeigh obtain a pre-paid calling card from the *Spotlight* newspaper. A clue to their intentions arrived

in Jennifer McVeigh's mail during the holidays.

Jennifer McVeigh told the FBI that she received a "weird letter" from her brother that was dated 24 December 1993. Her brother told her, "She should reevaluate the identity of true criminals. He indicated that persons who rob banks might not be the criminals at all." He implied that Jews are running the country and a large degree of control is exercised by Freemasons.

Jennifer told the FBI that the purpose of the letter was to allow her to redefine her conceptions of good and bad. "It was Tim's 'Robin Hood' philosophy," she said.

Under intense pressure, Jennifer also admitted that she and her brother were involved in a bank robbery scheme.

"He [Tim McVeigh] had been involved in a bank robbery, but did not provide the details concerning this robbery. ... Although he did not identify the participants of the robbery by name, he stated that they had committed the robbery. His purpose for relating this was to request that I exchange some of my own money for what I recall to be approximately three \$100 bills. I observed at that time that my brother had on his person an undetermined quantity of \$100 bills, of which he provided me a small portion. I recall that my brother remarked that the money he had in his possession represented his share of the bank robbery proceeds."

Let The Games Begin

After mailing the "Robin Hood letter," Tim McVeigh spends several more days at a friend's place in upper Michigan. Oddly, with the Super Bowl between the Dallas Cowboys and the Buffalo Bills coming up, the unemployed McVeigh, a rabid Bills fan, does not stay at his pal's to watch the game. Instead, McVeigh says has other plans and leaves a few days before kick-off.

On 25 January 1994, the ARA is credited with robbing the first in a string on nearly two dozen banks. Shortly after the Ames, Iowa, heist, Tim McVeigh will show up in Greenville, Texas. Here, he will make a few phone calls from a Motel 6 before heading back to Arizona.

Outside Kingman, the unemployed drifter will rent a concrete blockhouse and build a wood redoubt along the perimeter of the property. McVeigh tells his pal, Mike Fortier, he expects the FBI to raid the property, someday.

Around the first of April 1994, Terry



The ARA's "heistmobile," the vehicle used in many of the bank robberies. Was Tim McVeigh (aka Speedie) the wheelman on some of these jobs?

Nichols will take a low-paying ranch-hand's job near Marion, Kansas. The same week, the ARA will rent a safe-house two hours away in sleepy Pittsburg, Kansas.

During the next several months the ARA will hone its robbery skills — averaging a bank job every few weeks.

Nichols always seems to have an alibi on the day of these robberies, but not McVeigh. Save one instance, in July of 1994 when the drifter flies to New York to see his ailing grandfather, Tim McVeigh continues this pattern of disappearing around the time of each ARA heist. That is, until the Congress passes sweeping gun control legislation.

Members of the ARA see these new gun laws as a warning sign, straight from *The Turner Diaries*. All hell is about to break loose.

The Bombing Conspiracy Is Hatched

On 13 September 1994, Bill Clinton and some supporters are expected to gather in the Rose Garden to sign a

Eleven months later a federal grand jury issued indictments for the bombing of the OKC federal building. The grand jurors found that Nichols and McVeigh were involved in a conspiracy to bomb the federal building and it was formed “on or about the 13th of September 1994.”

The very next day, 14 September 1994, Tim McVeigh is filmed in Wichita, Kansas, liquidating precious coins at a gold and silver exchange. Within 24 hours the *Spotlight* calling card purchased by McVeigh and Nichols will be used to make a number of calls to businesses that sell components that could be used in a bomb.

Weeks later, Tim McVeigh and at least four members of the ARA gather in Arizona. A subsequent debriefing of two of those present confirm that from 1 February until the middle of March 1995 the ARA remains in the deserts of Arizona. McVeigh's phone records and an eyewitness account confirms his presence during this same parameter.

An example came from legendary paramilitary organizer of the Arizona Patriots, Jack Oliphant. Known as “the Colonel,” Oliphant was an ex-con who served four years for his involvement in a conspiracy to bomb federal installations and other crimes. Oliphant told the *LA Times*, “The bastard has put the patriot movement back 30 years by blowing up a building with people in it.”

With the feds hovering over Elohim City, several of the young skinheads living there took flight. Most go into hiding at Mark Thomas' farm in Pennsylvania.

Guthrie and Langan close down the Pittsburg safehouse and open up a new one in Columbus, Ohio. Bank robberies, though, are few and far between now as the ARA's image of invincibility falters. Bickering among members increases. Guthrie is considered dangerous and his “devil-may-care” attitude is blamed for the heat they are feeling. Even McVeigh's investigators are making regular pilgrimages to Elohim City, asking about contacts there. “Andy the German” flees to Europe, through Mexico — the historic route of many German spies.

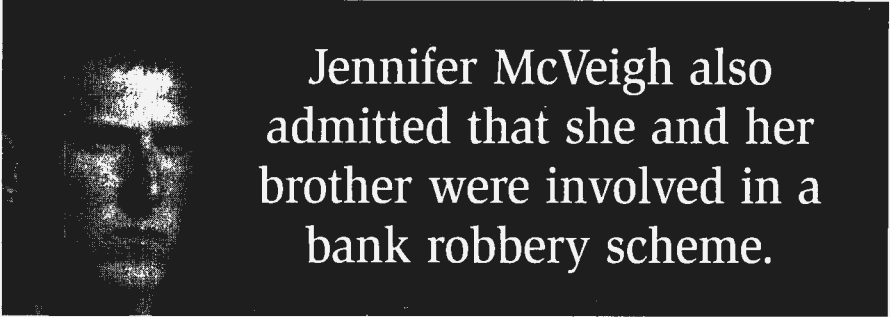
Possibly it's only a coincidence, but just as Mr. Red returns to Berlin, Wild Bill Guthrie is arrested on 15 January of 1996. The feds catch up with him in Cincinnati after a brief car chase. No shots are fired. The FBI says an informant who was a former close friend of Guthrie's has provided his whereabouts. Three days later, Langan is captured outside the Columbus safehouse. Somehow Commander Pedro survives the 47 rounds fired at him by the FBI SWAT team.

Over the next 18 months several more gang members are arrested. All but two plead guilty. Langan and one of the skinheads opt to go to court. Both will get stiff sentences.

Mark Thomas, the reputed political guru behind the ARA plot, gets a sweetheart deal that will put him back on the streets in a decade. Some of the other men get off with sentences of fewer than five years.

Let's Make A Deal

After several weeks of interviews with the FBI, Guthrie agrees to make a deal to tell what he knows about the terrorist underground. But shortly after getting the plea bargain accepted by the Justice Department, Wild Bill is found dangling from a bed sheet in his cell in Covington, Kentucky.



Jennifer McVeigh also admitted that she and her brother were involved in a bank robbery scheme.

major piece of gun legislation. The 1994 crime bill is advertised as the most far-reaching attack on gun ownership yet, and the Washington elite are full of themselves over the perceived victory.

Coinciding with the White House event, Timothy McVeigh and the number-two man of the Aryan Nations, Mark Thomas, travel separately to east-central Oklahoma.

On the night of the 12th, Thomas stays inside the Elohim City compound. According to motel records, McVeigh checks into a \$17.00 room a half-hour away from the ARA training camp. Where Langan and Guthrie spend the night is still a mystery.

According to investigative reports, the FBI later learns that Guthrie has just been to see Thomas in Philadelphia, and has asked permission to form a new cell. Guthrie has decided it is time to take their revolution to a new level. A girlfriend of Thomas later tells the FBI that during this same period the Aryan Nations' leader told her “his gang” intended to take out a federal building.

Just a few days after the ARA arrives in Arizona, blasting caps and Tovex explosives that had been stored in Tim McVeigh's storage unit in Kingman for several months are suddenly removed and the rent on the locker is allowed to expire.

Next, gang members purchase two vehicles — an older model sedan and an aging pickup truck. However, there are no robberies credited to the gang while they are in Arizona.

Weeks later, eyewitnesses in Kansas recall seeing vehicles of similar makes and vintages coming and going from a large yellow moving truck that is parked at Geary State fishing lake — the precise location, where the feds later claimed, the bomb was constructed that destroyed the federal building.

The Aftermath

So horrifying was the specter of the federal building bombing, even the most venomous members of the White Power Movement were paralyzed by the national revulsion.

That day, 12 July 1996, was also the day Guthrie was to be moved to a different facility. A reporter for the *LA Times* said she had interviewed Guthrie on the 11th and found him in good spirits and was bragging about a book he would write that, "Would go a lot further into what we were doing than robbing banks."

When the AP reported the Guthrie "suicide," headlines blossomed and the internet sizzled with debate over the death of man who took so many secrets to the grave.

James Ridgeway of the *Village Voice* wrote, "Guthrie's death was terribly convenient for those worried about what he might have to say at subsequent trials. A radical with strong ties to Elohim City and members of the ARA, Dennis Mahon, was ecstatic over the news, "He had help," Mahon told the *Village Voice*. "Let me tell you, some of these prison guards are on our side."

Prison officials did an investigation and produced a pair of suicide notes they said Guthrie left for his brother and lawyer. Neither recipient challenged the legitimacy of the handwriting or called for an investigation. But what about the rumor of a book manuscript that Guthrie had been working on? Initially, the feds told the media that they found no such manuscript. The unequivocal denials put to the rumor to rest.

The Ghost Of Richard Guthrie

Eventually, the United States Department of Justice admitted they had the long-sought-after Guthrie manuscript. Mark Hamm, an Indiana State University Professor of Criminology, was one of the first investigators outside government to lay eyes on it.

Afterward, hundreds of pages of FBI interviews with Guthrie and other gang members materialized. Suddenly, the ghost of Richard Guthrie was taking shape. The apparition was as fascinating as it was illusory.

Guthrie as a writer, was one-dimensional. His unfinished manuscript careens down a path from robbery to robbery; supplying details about the motels they stayed in, what banks they robbed, how much they stole and how much fun they had stealing it.

Equally important to investigators is what Guthrie does not say. For example, just as gaps in McVeigh's timeline in 1994 match nearly every one of the ARA's early robberies — gaps in the ARA's timeline allows for the possibilities that the gang participated in the

Marion quarry robbery — where many of the explosives used in the bombing are stolen; the Roger Moore gun robbery in Arkansas, that yields some 75 firearms and tens of thousands of dollars in cash and jewels. Most important, Guthrie wrote that his gang spent from early February to mid-March of 1995 in the deserts of Arizona. And, Guthrie offers no evidence to corroborate an alibi for himself or his men on the critical days leading up to and immediately after the Oklahoma City bombing.

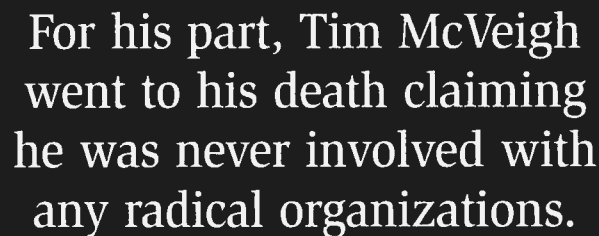
Regarding the bombing, Guthrie wrote with uncharacteristic restraint, "Simply put, within ten years it's my opinion that this country will resemble Sarajevo."

Possibly the most scintillating clue Guthrie leaves behind is the name of a member of his gang, a getaway car driver named Tim. Guthrie dubs the young man, "Speedie" because of his extraordinary driving skills.

After Guthrie died, the FBI said that "Tim" was really a fellow named

When Wild Bill sat down on 20 April 1996 and began writing his story, he made it clear to his brother — who was to be the custodian of the manuscript — that Speedie was the alias for Tim. Guthrie had no reason to lie. In fact, Guthrie warned his brother, Nick, to keep that page of his manuscript away from the media. But Wild Bill must have known the feds would read his manuscript. Was this his way of working a deal? Guthrie also hinted in the manuscript that there was at least one other ARA cell of terrorists that still could be out there. Another bargaining chip? We may never know, Guthrie died three months later.

On 9 April 1997 — only days before Tim McVeigh went on trial in Denver — the IRS building in Colorado Springs was firebombed. When the ATF arrived to conduct an investigation, they discovered the letters "ARA" painted on a wall. Exactly two years later, the new IRS facility in Colorado Springs was attacked in a similar fash-



For his part, Tim McVeigh went to his death claiming he was never involved with any radical organizations.

AP/Wide World

"Mike" — Michael Brescia — one of Strassmeir's roommates at Elohim City.

Brescia was eventually indicted with the rest of the gang. But the Philadelphia grand jury only found evidence he was involved in one bank robbery and that one was six months after the bombing in OKC. Even the FBI admits, Brescia was not involved in any of the ARA robberies in 1994 — leaving open the debate: Who was the getaway driver for the gang in 1994?

Hoping to counter overwhelming evidence of McVeigh's involvement in bank robberies, the FBI produced interviews with Guthrie, where he agrees that "Tim" was really an alias for Mike Brescia. Shortly after those interviews, Guthrie was found dead.

McVeigh's sister has never publicly commented about the bank robberies her brother was involved in. But someday she may. If the OKC bombing case is reopened, investigators will have trouble with the "Tim is really Mike," theory. Strong evidence from Guthrie's own hand refutes the notion.

ion. No arrests have been made or suspects publicly identified.

As it turns out, Guthrie may have been telling the truth about the existence of another cell and Tim McVeigh's connections to the ARA, as well.

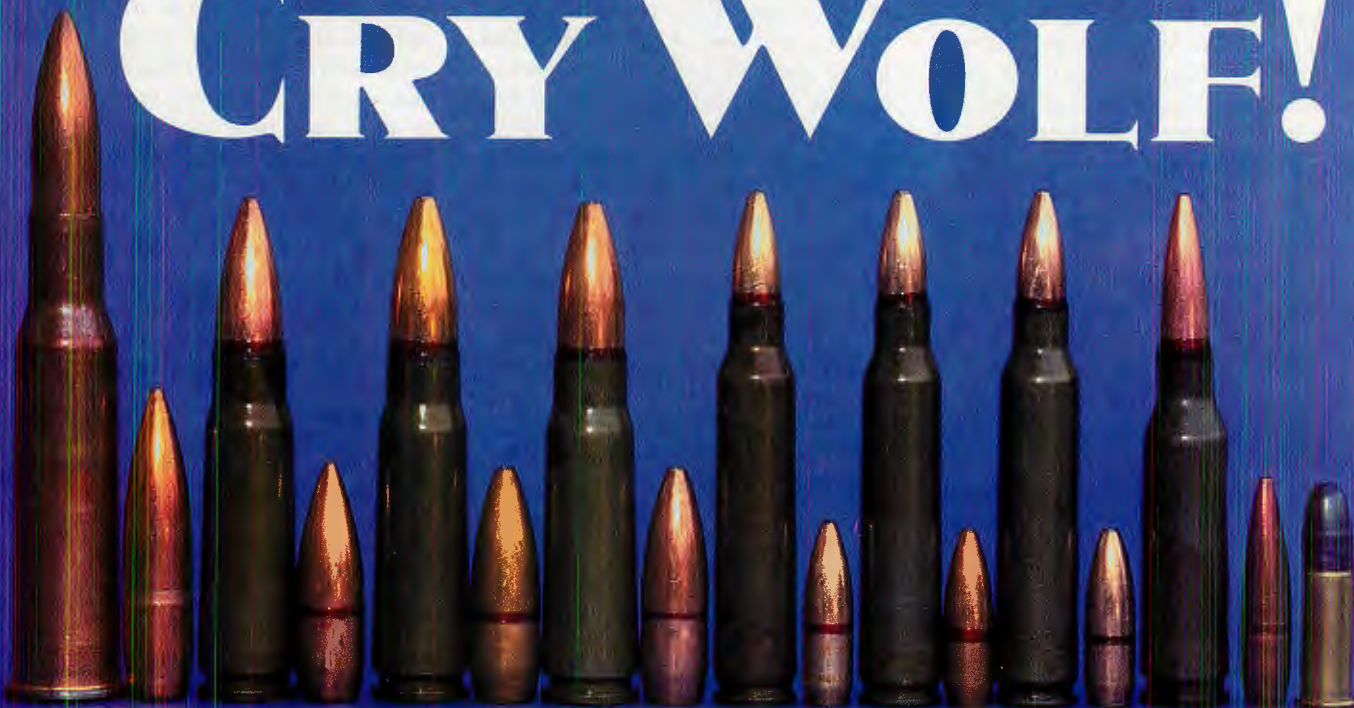
For his part, Tim McVeigh went to his death claiming he was never involved with any radical organizations.

Peter Langan may now be looking for a deal. Facing a life sentence for his larger than life role in the bank robbery conspiracy, Commander Pedro says he "suspects" at least three members of the ARA's bank robbery cell were involved in the bombing of the federal building in OKC, "And don't forget the leg ..."

J.D. Cash, a longtime Oklahoma investigative journalist, has broken several major stories on the OKC Bombing.

Roger Charles, a U.S. Naval Academy grad and former consultant on ABC's 20/20, is, likewise, an authority on the tragedy and a frequent contributor to SOF. ✕

CRY WOLF!

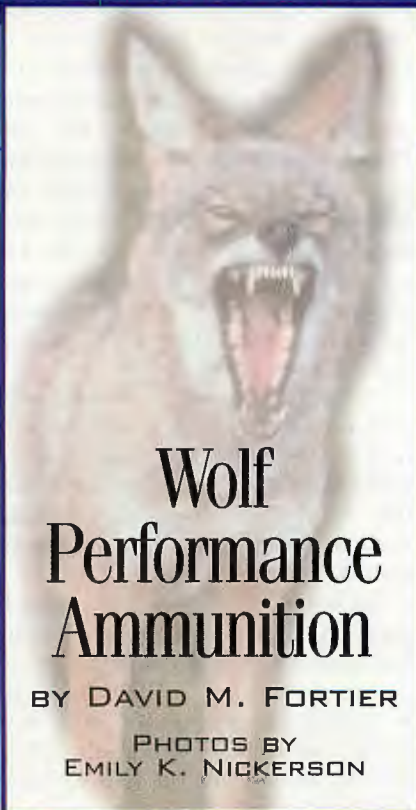


For Top-Notch Surplus Ammo

It wasn't so very long ago that Russian ammunition was somewhat of a mystery. However, the fall of Communism has changed all that. Today Russia is exporting large quantities of surplus as well as brand new production commercial ammunition to the United States. Recently, *SOF* took an in-depth look at the most prolific brand of commercial Russian ammunition currently being imported, Wolf Performance Ammunition.

Imported by Sporting Supplies International, Inc., in Anaheim, Calif., Wolf Performance Ammunition is, with two exceptions, manufactured at Tula Cartridge Works. Located south of Moscow, Tula is one of the oldest industrial cities in Russia with a population of some 600,000.

First mention of Tula was made back in 1146 when it was referred to as



Wolf Performance Ammunition

BY DAVID M. FORTIER

PHOTOS BY
EMILY K. NICKERSON

Wolf Performance Ammunition's rifle line-up consists of (left to right) 7.62x54R 200 gr. FMJBT; 7.62x39 122 gr. FMJBT; copper-jacketed HPBT. bi-metal HPBT; 5.56x45 62 gr. FMJBT; 55 gr. FMJBT; 55 gr. HPBT; 5.45x39 60 gr. FMJBT; .22 LR Match 40 gr. RNL.

Taydula in Russian chronicles. A city of great historical significance for Russia, it was to become the country's metallurgical and iron working center. This began after one of Tula's blacksmiths, Nikita Demidov, erected two blast furnaces and hammer workshops.

It was Peter the Great, though, who had the greatest impact on Tula. At the beginning of his reign Russia was territorially a large power, but lacked access to the Black, Caspian, or Baltic Seas. To win such an outlet became the main goal of Peter's foreign policy. Armament production was necessary to attain

such ambitions, and so he enjoined armorers to “settle in Tula behind the Upa River.” Here they were allowed to have their own lifestyles and were entitled to specific rights and privileges to the point that they were not even accountable to Tula’s authorities. They became the pioneers of the Russian iron working and metallurgy industry.

Late in the 19th century, S.I. Mosin designed the famous 7.62mm Model 1891 magazine rifle (the Russians still refer affectionately to it as the *Trekhlineika*, or 3-line rifle) while at Tula. The Mosin-Nagant M1891 saw heavy use in the Russo-Japanese War and during World War I when Tula made most of the 100,000 rifles produced each month. After the Revolution Tula continued to produce *Trekhlineika* rifles, Maxim guns, Nagant revolvers, and cavalry sabers. As the USSR began its rearmament program in the 1930s one major goal was to increase output of all armament factories. This naturally required an increase in ammunition production, as well. So the ammunition and weapons factories of Tula were separated and an



(above) Mark Klarich lights up a target with a Mini-14 during CQB training at SIG Arms Academy. During training, Wolf’s 5.45x39, 7.62x39, and 5.56x45 loads performed superbly. (left) Wolf Performance Ammunition’s handgun line-up consists of (left to right) .45 ACP 230 gr. FMJ; .40 S&W 180 gr. FMJ; 9x19 115 gr. FMJ; 9x18 109 gr. FMJ; 5.45x18 45 gr. FMJ. Long a mystery cartridge, the 5.45x18 is offered to collectors in a 10-round display pack. (below) Manufactured at Tula Cartridge Works, in Russia, Wolf Performance Ammunition offers quality ammunition at affordable prices.



independent cartridge plant was set up. This plant became Tula Cartridge Works, the home for Wolf Performance Ammunition.

In A Word — “Priceability”

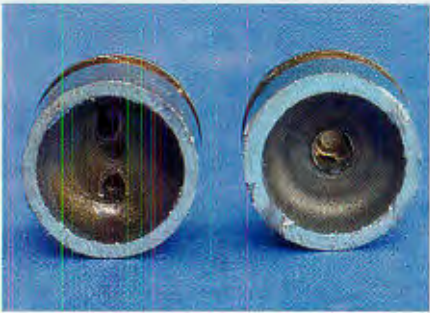
If you are caught in this quagmire of wishing for fresh factory ammunition at surplus prices there is good news. Wolf Performance Ammunition offers quality ammunition, in an ever-expanding variety of calibers — at extremely reasonable prices.

Attractively packaged in commercial boxes, Wolf ammunition is steel cased with non-corrosive berdan or boxer primers. While the Russians continued to use corrosive berdan primers long after everyone else, they did it for one simple reason, they are far more reliable in extreme cold weather condi-





Wolf ammunition is steel cased with a gray finish topped with a protective lacquer coating. Both the case mouth and primer annulus feature a red sealant for reliability and long storage life.



Wolf Performance Ammunition features both berdan and boxer non-corrosive primers. 5.56x45, .40 S&W and .45 ACP loads feature boxer primers while the rest use berdan primers.



A mystery round in the 1980s, Wolf Performance Ammunition offers 5.45x39 ammunition to the American shooter. Featuring a 60 gr. FMJBT with an airpocket in the nose, it averaged 2,954 fps across the chrony.

tions. That being said, Wolf's primers are non-corrosive, guaranteed. The cartridge cases are manufactured from steel, except their 5.45x18mm and .22 LR Match ammunition, and have a gray finish topped with a protective lacquer coating. Steel cases are not only much less expensive to produce, but they are even biodegradable. Both the case mouth and primer annulus feature a red sealant for reliability and long storage life. Projectiles feature a copper jacket for long barrel life in all loads except 5.45x39mm, which utilizes a bi-metal jacket. Bi-metal jacketed loads are also available in 7.62x39mm. And, surprisingly, Wolf Performance Ammunition features a guarantee to refund any money, including freight charges, if a customer is not satisfied.

While Wolf originally offered only Russian calibers this has changed and today they offer popular American calibers, as well. For pistol calibers they offer a 45 gr. 5.45x18mm, 109 gr. 9x18mm Makarov, 115 gr. 9x19mm, 180 gr. .40 S&W, and 230 gr. .45 ACP. These are all FMJ loadings with the .40 S&W and .45 ACP being boxer primed. For rifle cartridges they offer a 60 gr. 5.45x39mm, 55 and 62 gr. 5.56x45mm, 122 gr. 7.62x39mm, and 200 gr. 7.62x54Rmm. These are all FMJBT's with HPBT's also offered in 7.62x39mm and 5.56x45mm. The 5.56x45mm loadings also utilizes boxer primers.

In addition, they offer two grades of .22 LR Match ammunition, Match Gold and Match Target. Of these loads, all



We tested Wolf's 7.62x39 ammunition's reliability by storing it in ocean water for up to one month. While the cartridges rusted and discolored they still fired and functioned through a Kalashnikov.

are produced at Tula Cartridge Works with the exception of the 7.62x54R and .22 LR. Tula no longer produces 7.62x54R, so this load is manufactured at Novosibirsk. This is actually a good thing as Novosibirsk has a long history of producing superb 7.62x54Rmm ammunition, including Extra Match, as well as the 7N1 Sniper load. The .22 Match ammunition is manufactured in Germany rather than Russia. It's produced by SK Jagd-und Sportmunitions GmbH, in Schonebeck. This facility has been producing Olympic-grade .22 LR ammunition for years. Of these loads,



Rob Silvers hammers a target with a Steyr AUG while on the move during CQB training at SIG Arms Academy. It takes constant practice to hone and maintain one's weapon-handling skills. Wolf Performance Ammunition provides quality ammunition at surprisingly low prices and deserves a look by anyone planning on doing a lot of training.

the .40 S&W, 7.62x54R, and .22LR are brand new offerings at which SOF was given first look.

Since I first started shooting Wolf Performance Ammunition two years ago I've personally fired, or observed being fired, close to 20,000 rounds of their various loads. I have been nothing but impressed.

The Durability Factor

At first, though, I was quite the skeptic. So I set out to see for myself how good Wolf Performance Ammunition actually was. The first thing I decided to do was to test it in salt water. I live only a five-minute walk from the Atlantic Ocean, so I took a stroll and hauled back a couple of 5-gallon buckets of sea water. I was interested in seeing how well the lacquer coating protected the steel cases and how long the sealant on the case mouth and primer annulus enabled the rounds to fire. Twenty rounds from each of the three different 7.62x39mm loadings were placed in salt water. As a control, 20 rounds lacking the case mouth and primer annulus sealant that had been manufactured by a different Russian factory were also tested. At one-week intervals for one month, five rounds of each load were removed and tested through a Kalashnikov rifle. After one week in salt water, all 15 rounds of the Wolf fired while only three rounds of the control lot would fire. At the end of testing, 58 of the 60 rounds of Wolf Performance Ammunition had fired and cycled normally. Only five of the 20 rounds from the control lot fired during testing. I was impressed by this performance.

After this I pulled apart some various loads to check their quality control. To do this I enlisted the aid of a friend, Donny Heald, and set him to work pulling bullets. We looked at two calibers, 9x19mm and 7.62x39mm. We weighed cases, powder charges, and projectiles. No significant variations were found. It appeared well-made, so the next step was for velocity and accuracy testing.

Range-testing was performed off the bench firing from sandbags. Velocity readings were taken with an Oleher 35P chronograph at 12 feet from the muzzle. For handgun ammunition we picked three calibers to test for this article, 9x18mm, 9x19mm, and their new .40 S&W load. Groups were fired at 15 yds with the 9x18mm using a Makarov, and 25 yds with the 9x19mm out of an HS 2000 and the



SOE was given a first look at three new loads from Wolf. New to their line-up is a 200 gr. 7.62x54R FMJBT load; a 180 gr. .40 S&W FMJ; and .22 LR Match ammunition.

.40 S&W out of a Glock 23. The .40 S&W sent to us for testing was a pre-production lot and I wanted to see how this load would perform. My personal carry pistol is a Glock 23, and so I was glad to see Wolf introducing this caliber to their line-up. The 9x19mm in particular shot quite well accuracy-wise. All rounds fed, cycled, and ejected perfectly. Accuracy results are in the accompanying chart. As a last acid test we put 500 rounds of 9x19mm through an M-11 submachinegun. Even at 1,200+ rpm there were no problems.

To test Wolf's new 40 gr. .22 LR Match Target load we shot it off the bench at 25 yards. We fired it through a 1950s'-vintage Colt Match Target pistol and an old Mossberg 146B-A rifle. The Mossberg's target sights were replaced with a simple 4x40mm scope for testing. Both weapons performed extremely well with this load. The Mossberg consistently printed five-shot .25-in. groups and I feel would have done even better with a higher quality scope. What this ammunition would do out of a true target rifle would be impressive indeed. And



Rifles used for testing included (left to right) Romanian AK-74 with I.O.R. 4x M2 Tactical scope; 8x42 topped SVD Tiger; M91/30 Sniper rifle with 3.5x PU; Finnish M91 Mosin-Nagant; CZ527 7.62x39 carbine.

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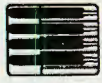


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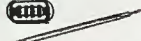
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remember, this was simply their Match Target, not their Match Gold load.

Rifle loads tested were their 5.45x39mm, 5.56x45mm, 7.62x39mm, and 7.62x54Rmm. A Romanian AK-74 with an I.O.R. 4x Tactical scope was used testing their 5.45x39mm load. A Colt H-Bar with a Springfield Armory 6x24x56 Tactical was used testing their 5.56x45mm. To test their 7.62x39mm I utilized a CZ-527 bolt gun topped with an I.O.R. 4x32 hunting scope. For their new 7.62x54Rmm I chose to run it through 3 different rifles, a Finnish M91, a Soviet M91/30 Sniper rifle, and a Russian SVD Tiger. With three different barrel lengths I was interested in seeing the resultant effect on velocity. I was also interested in seeing how the 200 gr. load cycled and shot out of the SVD Tiger.

While Kalashnikovs have a reputation for poor accuracy the AK-74 performed surprisingly well. Groups ran in the 2-in. range at 100 yards. Recoil on this load is extremely mild with superb shot to shot recovery. Like the 7N6 military load, the Wolf 5.45x39 loading features an airpocket in the nose of the projectile. This moves the weight to the rear of the projectile allowing it to be very stable in flight, but to rapidly destabilize upon impact. Stepping back to 300 yards and firing at IPSC targets the AK-74 continued to perform well with groups running in the 6.5-inch range. The AK-74 was shooting well enough that we tried taking head shots only at a line of seven IPSC targets at 300 yards. Of these four were perfect hits, two were struck low in the shoulder area, and one was a clean miss. I felt this to be a fine showing for a Kalashnikov. With this combination I feel that I could consistently hit a standing figure out to 450-500 yards, depending upon wind.

Both the 5.56x45mm and 7.62x39mm also performed well. I did notice with these calibers that Wolf's FMJBT loads consistently outshot their HPBT loads, regardless of distance. Reliability was flawless and there were no problems of any kind. The new 7.62x54R 200 gr. FMJBT load proved to be a real thumper, at both ends. Accuracy was good, and head shots at 300 yards with the SVD were 100%. Recoil off the bench with the Mosins was pretty attention-getting, however. Offhand, kneeling, or sitting was no problem. But the stock design and steel buttplate really hammered you during a long session at the bench. I've come away from fistfights that I've lost and felt

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better. Also it was interesting to note the insignificant velocity gain of only 100 fps going from a 20-in. barrel up to a 31.6-in. tube. While I would have preferred this new load to have been in the standard 148 gr. weight, it's a welcome inexpensive load for this caliber.

Wolf Ammo Succeeds In Training

The last, but probably the most important, part of this test was bringing Wolf Performance Ammunition with me to use while training. I attended SIG Arms Academy's Level 1 and 2 Defensive Rifle Courses in Epping, New Hampshire. During these courses I fired approximately 3,000 rounds of 5.45x39mm and 7.62x39mm loads while a friend of mine, Mark Klarich, fired a couple thousand rounds of 5.56x45mm. During training Wolf's ammunition performed flawlessly, providing 100% reliability and fine accuracy. The only thing I did notice was a large flash signature during low-light training. This was especially evident when firing in total darkness with a Krebs Custom 7.62x39mm AK-103K with its "flamethrower" muzzlebrake.

After testing their various loads I can say that Wolf Performance Ammunition offers excellent value for the money. It allows someone to maintain regular practice without resorting to handloading or busting the bank account. The ammunition itself is well-made, reliable and accurate. Their new .22 LR Match loads are superbly accurate. With new loads and calibers in the works, they are someone to keep an eye on. ☒

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Colombian Crossroads

Continued from page 49

"human rights cartel" too often functions as a weapons system for the insurgents, trying ceaselessly to go after the security forces' top commanders, those of the army in particular.

This serves to highlight yet another point: the inadequate legal environment under which the security forces operate. To date, civilian law governs the conflict, rather than a combination of emergency provisions and normal statutes. This creates a situation which, operationally speaking, is impossible — where a misdirected strike becomes cause for a charge of manslaughter, and so on.

What has been absent from the current debate on legal issues and human rights has been a positing of any realistic options for a state faced with an insurgent campaign that was built — first and foremost — upon retaining the initiative through terror and guerrilla action, i.e. retaining the initiative due to its freedom to operate in areas where the government is absent.

The point would seem elementary as concerns human rights groups, which have been among the fiercest opponents of popular mobilization: You cannot demand the creation of a vacuum, then seek to blame individuals for not being in control of what happens in that vacuum.

If It Exists, It's Legitimate?

There is a school of thought that looks to the past, to the errors that have indisputably been made — and continue to be made — by Colombia in the handling of the insurgency, and argues that the key is conversion of the guerrillas into legitimate political forces — by all means short of force. Therein lies the dilemma of the present situation: Such advocacy is understandable but will not work.

Once an insurgent movement becomes a going concern, the dynamic that it obtains is quite different from that which may have given it life initially. It becomes an alternative social structure, able to recruit, assign, promote, and control. It is a mistake to equate *existence* with *legitimacy*.

The insurgents in Colombia have no significant support base. To the contrary, they "control" territory in areas where there is little population — save, in many cases, coca/poppy/marijuana growers and a transplanted work force.

FARC's minimal popular support guarantees that *terror* is its dominant control tactic. This, as was the case with *Sendero Luminoso* in Peru, distorts the actual insurgent position to make it appear as one of strength and widespread dominance.

Perhaps, of most importance, while the state certainly had a role in creating the original insurgency, and then made it worse, FARC combatant numbers do not stem from this earlier era. The present insurgents did not become a serious concern until their historically recent linkup with the drug trade, then supplemented by "revolutionary taxation" in the form of kidnapping and extortion. Thus they — and insurgency/counterinsurgency — cannot be separated from narcotics/counternarcotics.

There are times, then, when negotiations and "humanitarian assistance" alone are inadequate. The insurgents, as *disciplined groups* — this term to make clear that leadership and manpower invariably have varying agendas, which are not necessarily overlapping — are not agrarian or national reformers any more than were the Viet Cong or Filipino CCP.

They are political actors. They produce the bulk of the death and destruction being visited upon the country. Indeed, one of the signal successes of the human rights agenda has been to deflect attention to the symptom (the popular reaction against insurgency) rather than to the cause (insurgency).

In this fight, Colombian government policy may not be "right," but certainly there is much that is being advanced as analysis of the Colombian situation that is wrong. Drugs, to repeat, are not the central element of Colombia's problem. Their greatest problem is state fragmentation. We can talk of nothing until the government actually exercises its writ within its national territory.

This will come about only through a combination of military and socio-economic-political means. Security force adaptation is a necessary but not sufficient component in this campaign. *That* must be a *national* effort that mobilizes the Colombian people in a determined, counterrevolutionary socio-economic-political restoration, which not only ends the FARC insurgency, but leaves Colombia a stronger democracy.

A former infantry officer with much time in Colombia as an analyst and journalist, Dr. Tom Marks is a frequent contributor to SOF. ✕

Keep 'Em Shooting

Continued from page 29

The bolt shroud safety is of the three-position variety. When the wing is to the left, it is ready to fire, and when it is to the right, it is on "Safe" and the bolt is locked closed. When the wing is in the center, the bolt can be disassembled. The magazine in the Swedish rifles is of the five-round, fixed stagger-box type typical of Mausers.

Like all pre-98 Mauser models, the Swedish rifles feature cock-on-closing, which means that the striker is cocked as the bolt is closed. Model '98 Mausers featured cock-on-opening. One nice thing about the pre-98s is that the longer striker travel of the cock-on-closing feature meant the firing pin hit the primer with considerable authority. This is particularly nice if the rifle is to be used in extremely cold climates.

The Swedish rifles have nominal bores of .256-inch diameter, with nominal groove diameters of .269. They have four-groove rifling with a right-hand twist of one turn in 7.8 inches. Because of their fine workmanship, the actual bore and groove dimensions tend to be extremely close to the nominal numbers — not true of many military surplus rifles.

Loading for the 6.5x55mm cartridge is simple and straightforward. Case length is 2.165 inches, and a standard large rifle primer is used.

A standard two-die set is used to load for this cartridge, with the first die re-sizing and de-priming the case simultaneously, while the second die seats the bullet (and crimps the mouth of the case if that is desired). For bolt-action rifles, there really is no need to crimp the mouth of the case, but if the ammo is to be used in a semi-auto, crimping is not a bad idea.

Because the bottleneck design of this cartridge is noticeably "necked," and because the bullet weight for bore diameter tends to be on the relatively heavy side, the slower burning rifle powders work best.

Unlike many of the cartridges that have been chambered for the pre-98 Mausers, the 6.5x55 has been offered in the full-strength form from factories around the world. Still, it is a good idea to start with suggested starting loads, and then work up carefully, paying attention for any signs of excessive pressure in a given rifle. Check reloading manuals from the various manufacturers for such information. ❧

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I Was There

Continued from page 17

lated among the Croatian and Bosnian Muslim soldiers. We exchanged stories and jokes, provoking laughter, mostly at my limited knowledge of their language. The lonely Serbian soldier stuck in his staff car saw this levity and laughter. The Bosnians and Croats were exchanging cigarettes and were at ease.

General Michael Jackson, commander of the 3rd U.K. Division based in Bulford, England, was the NATO officer in charge of this first IFOR meeting. In Bosnia, General Jackson is in charge of NATO Sector Southwest, which is based in Gornji Vakuf. When he arrived at the compound, he saw to it that all the officers of the three warring factions were in the conference tent ready for the meeting. He explained to the participants that the purpose of this meeting was to understand the implementation of the rules or regulations of the Paris Peace Accord. The work for the day was twofold. First the boundaries were to be worked out and finalized. Large maps that were brought into the tent were rolled-up and were at least a meter wide. The second task of the day was to work on prisoner of war exchange.

The Serbs tried to make some changes, but General Jackson stated that there would be no changes. That was done at the Dayton Accord. Once these two principal tasks showed signs of progress further meetings were to follow.

General Jackson stated to the group and acknowledged to the Bosnians that he had received the Bosnians' letter complaining that the Serbs at one location had advanced 300 meters to the top of a hill on Muslim territory to gain strategic advantage. General Jackson said he would look into it. The Muslims complained that the Serbs are not cooperating with civilian and military exchanges. The Muslims presented a long list of missing civilians and soldiers. Later on it was learned that this list mentioned that 25,000 persons were missing and unaccounted for. Through all of this discussion the Serbs said nothing at all. The Muslims were the most vocal of all the three factions. The Croats were in total compliance with the requirements of the Paris Peace Accord. General Jackson let the three factions go to their private conference rooms where they discussed their topics in confidentiality. He came

out of the tent and spent five minutes briefing the press. Then he returned to the tent.

When the meeting was finished General Jackson asked the three groups if they would like to have their picture taken for the press. The Muslims refused emphatically and were the first to walk out of the tent. The Serbs and Croats followed. Brief statements by the warring factions were made to the press.

The British handled the first IFOR meeting conference remarkably well. Their soldiers performed their duties with a high degree of professionalism, yet they exhibited humor and tolerance. What a relief these NATO troops are when I compare them with the UN troops I have met in the past. NATO is the answer. The UN is not. The UN prolonged the horror, the killing, the atrocities, the raping, the destruction in Bosnia and Croatia. The NATO troops brought this satanic carnage to a screeching halt. General Michael Jackson did a superb job in conducting this meeting. He laid down the law, what he expected and how it was to be implemented.

As General Jackson was standing in the background watching the three warring factions being interviewed by the press, I went to our Jeep and got a January 1996 issue of SOF and approached General Jackson. I gave him this copy of SOF and smilingly he thanked me for it and said he would read it that night.

This first IFOR meeting lasted two hours. On our trip back to Tomislavgrad General Glasnovic stopped at the Serbian cemetery in Mrkonjic Grad to check on the condition of the graves and see if any vandalism had occurred — none had. There were 38 wooden crosses on top of the neatly arranged rows of the graves of the Serbian soldiers that had died on the battlefield. Every grave was recorded and a Croatian medical officer wrote down the cause of death of each man. No autopsies were performed, but the types and body locations of the traumas that caused the deaths were recorded.

In this same cemetery the headstones and graves of the dead civilians were decorated in the Serbian custom with bread, bottles of wine and plum brandy (*slivowitz*), towels and clothes.

We resumed our trip back to Tomislavgrad.

Nick Dodich, longtime contributor to SOF, is a frequent visitor to the Balkans. ✕

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both opposing elements wanted passed back to Vann and others.

We should listen to officers who have thought deeply about these matters. One of the finest Army officers I've ever known, then-Colonel Eugene Lynch, whom I met in Vietnam, has thought through the world in which we operate. The matrices Mike has used to illustrate his findings are the most serious of all extensions of Clausewitz that his devotees have seen to date. Mike views the *Principles of War* from strategic, tactical, and operational levels in charts that could be understood by a C&GSC student within a week's exposure. Mike's focus on Force versus Power; Form versus Function, and Measures versus Ends would make young officers/operators of the Navy's SEALs and our Army's Special Forces far more valuable than their Vietnam-era processing could do.

Exposure to his structure combined with a stringent examination of their own past experience would provide a much fuller comprehension of the world they will now serve.

Our most abject failing stems from our poor capacity to understand other cultures. Officers trained in anthropology and several other social sciences would be useful. Our pacification programs in Vietnam would have benefited from such officers. I was exposed to the ability of anthropologists to cross cultures by watching Tom Dooley's team work in their field hospital in 1961 in western Laos (Ban Houei Sai). Colonel Yarborough, then commanding the Special Warfare Center, was very sensitive to any tactic likely to make our White Star Mobile Training Teams more effective. He shared his "Black Bag" with the graduate students of Weston Labarre, author of *The Human Animal*, then teaching at Duke University. Our Special Forces teams became far more effective in a matter of months. It is a pity none of us realized our successors would betray/abandon the Hmong mountain people that our new skills enabled us to recruit.

Inertia: The Most Powerful Force

An obvious task of the new Bush Administration is to resolve these continuing failures. What can be done other than the self-evident "close down and start over" response, which itself is not a credible solution? The just com-

pleted Hart-Rudman Commission has illuminated some organizational steps that can improve operational capabilities in forces that circumstances may again require us to commit. The first of these other remedies should be to require agreement on "lessons learned" from our Vietnam folly.

The simplistic "never again" motto is attractive, but it has had no real impact on the structure or orientation of the involved bureaucracies that misled Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon about Vietnam. What do we know now about indigenous cultures in areas where we may commit forces?

Has our new focus on "peacekeeping" missions stimulated beneficial evolution in the forces we may have to deploy around the world? Would present technologies have resolved the situation our commitment to Somalia imposed on the forces sent there? What will be the eventual "blowback" from our decision to protect the people of Kosovo with our aircraft? Will our ongoing actions become more effective, and still be acceptable to our nation and the rest of the world?

Both *Prelude's* and *Backfire's* candid denunciations of the errors we made in Vietnam, focus on our near total ignorance of that culture as well as our driving obsession with the Domino theory. Lenin wrote of "sloganizing the revolution." It is evident that stultifying intellectual concepts, when rendered to simple sounding phrases, can become an enemy's most effective weapon — as with the Domino theory we revered. Adopting this one certainly disabled us and forced us to pay an enormous price in lives, equipment and national unity.

"Blowback" is the CIA's term for "unintended consequences" of a policy or action. The book of this title by Professor Chalmers Johnson is another "must read" work. He makes it very evident that inertia is the most powerful force generated by bureaucracies. The six years I spent alongside Johnson and Professor Bob Scalapino of the Political Science Department of the University of California at Berkeley (1972-78) took me down intellectual paths that could have saved us enormous toll in treasure and lives had these been seen and appreciated by our decision-makers.

Carl F. Bernard was an enlisted Marine in WWII and after the war served in China: He re-enlisted in the Army and received an OCS commission. ✕

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your bathing suit could save your or someone else's life. Rappelling or mountain climbing? Again, a good serrated folder is essential equipment. My Scimitar takes up less space in my pocket than my car keys and my change, and weighs a lot less than a candy bar. There is no justification for not carrying a folder such as this.

The third knife I carry is carried in my left front pocket. It is a Congress Whittler by Schatt and Morgan. This is an old-timer three-bladed slip-joint folder like your grandpa carried, dyed jigged bone handles and all. This one is used as an all-around general-purpose tool and surgical instrument. You can peel and core an apple, strip wire, open a cardboard box, lance a blister, remove a thorn or what have you. This one is by no stretch of the imagination a fighting knife or an edged weapon, but if push really comes to shove and you need a weapon, and if you can get it deployed, it would work better than your fingernails. Barely, but in a worst-case scenario, something is better than nothing.

Each key on your key chain fits a specific lock. Those of us who carry knives on an everyday basis view them in much the same way. Each knife is carried for a specific purpose. If an edged weapon is called for, the Bowie is the first choice. Properly carried it is invisible. No one ever asks me about my Bowie, but on occasion someone may ask me about the folder I am carrying, as they see the clip on the edge of my pocket. The legalities involved in carrying ANY knife may be a concern depending on your locale. However, if you are involved in illegal or irresponsible behavior with a knife, be it folder or fixed-blade, any assistant prosecutor worth his salt can get you as much jail time with a folder as with a 10-inch fixed blade.

If you decide there is a need for you to carry a knife for your personal protection, then you must accept that there are risks and potential consequences involved. One set of risks are the legalities involved in both the carry and deployment of this or any other weapon. The other lies in selecting the wrong knife for the emergency at hand. When your life may be on the line, be sure that you have enough knife for the job.

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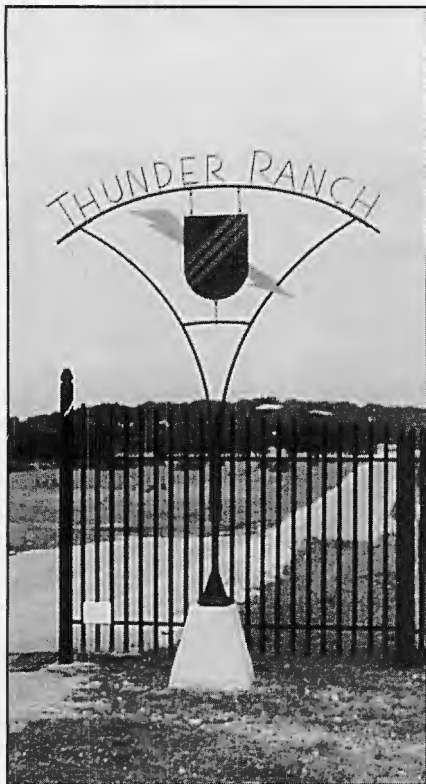
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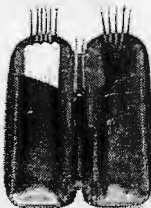
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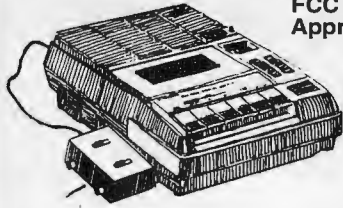
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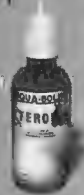


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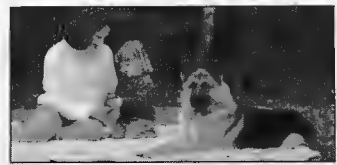
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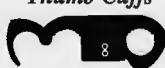
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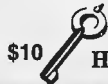
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Sound Off

BY COL. DAVID H. HACKWORTH (RET.)

Lying About Ex-Yugoslavia

Are the powers-that-be lying to the American people about what we're up to in the former Yugoslavia? If they are, "This is déjà vu all over again," as Yogi Berra used to say.

Thirty years ago, Daniel Ellsberg blew the whistle on the Vietnam War when he released *The Pentagon Papers*, proving that our government, from Truman to Nixon, had been systematically lying to the American people. The papers showed a generation-long conspiracy of deliberate concealment from both the people and Congress concerning Vietnam policy.

Just one whopper among thousands: In 1964, when LBJ was running against Barry Goldwater, he promised "no escalation was needed in South Vietnam." Meanwhile, as *The Pentagon Papers* later showed, his advisers were telling him the ante had to be kicked up. So LBJ lied and whipped Goldwater, whose sin was telling the hard truth about what he thought needed to be done in Vietnam — which was pretty much what LBJ ended up doing!

Because of all the fabrications, four million Southeast Asians lost their lives, we took nearly a half-million casualties, and our nation was almost ripped asunder. And now, for at least a decade, we've been similarly deceived regarding U.S. policy in ex-Yugoslavia — about who's been receiving intelligence and arms from us, and our real agenda.

The lies have ranged from biggies, like Clinton saying in 1995 that our forces would be in Bosnia for only one year, to the less consequential, such as what really happened after so-called Air Force hero Scott O'Grady went down in flames.

As with Vietnam, the American people are fast asleep, while many members of Congress seem interested only in their post-Congress lobbying jobs. And the soldiers on the ground who do the bleeding are all regulars, so no one cares what happens to them except their families. Since 1990, the ex-Yugoslavian swamp's gotten wider, deeper and more costly in lives and dollars. First we stepped into Croatia and Bosnia. Next came Kosovo. And now there's the mess in Macedonia.

When Dubya was running against Big Al, he used to talk about getting us out of the Balkan bogs and bringing our boys back home. Now that he's in the presidential saddle, he's completely changed his jingle — just like LBJ. The latest lyrics go, "We went in together, we'll come out together." The "we"



Col. David Hackworth (Ret.) also writes a syndicated weekly column titled "Defending America." "Hack" doesn't pull any punches and many liberal rags won't carry his writing. If your local paper falls into that category, call the editor and let him know you'd like to see "Defending America" on the Op-Ed page. It's syndicated by King Features, 235 E. 45th St., New York, NY 10017.

refers to obsolete NATO, which only exists because it's good for the U.S. arms business.

More recent lies:

- Last week, Sgt. Richard Casini, a recon trooper in Kosovo, tangled with a rebel mine. "Your boy is being flown to Germany on the general's jet," an Army colonel assured his worried Dad. The dad thought: Wow! The Army really takes care of their own. The general sent his jet! Later that night, Sgt. Casini, now of one foot, called from Germany and told his dad that he'd been flown out in an old C-130 cargo plane, sandwiched between pallets. "Dad, it was so hot, they had to put an oxygen mask on me," Sgt. Casini said.

- A friend forwarded an e-mail from his 101st Airborne Division sergeant son, who was in Macedonia, giving exacting and shocking details on how his unit moved formerly CIA-supported Kosovar rebels — who were encircled by Macedonian government forces — out of harm's way. And how the rebels were allowed to keep their weapons and then how his unit was almost

taken out by angry, armed Macedonians. An hour later, the sergeant wrote again: "Dad, I sent you that e-mail exactly one hour before I was briefed that I was NOT to give out ANY information on the mission at ALL to ANYONE. It could get me in A LOT of trouble! I started sweating bullets ... they made it clear the consequence of even breathing a few words to immediate family!"

Last week, President Bush said he'd "not ruled out the possibility of sending U.S. troops to Macedonia to help quell unrest there." But our troops were already there — and many more are either on the way or on alert to go.

Like Vietnam, we've got a whole lot of lying and covering up going down. How many more feet, legs and lives will be lost in ex-Yugoslavia before another brave Ellsberg releases *The Pentagon Papers, Part II*?

<http://www.hackworth.com> is the address of David Hackworth's home page.

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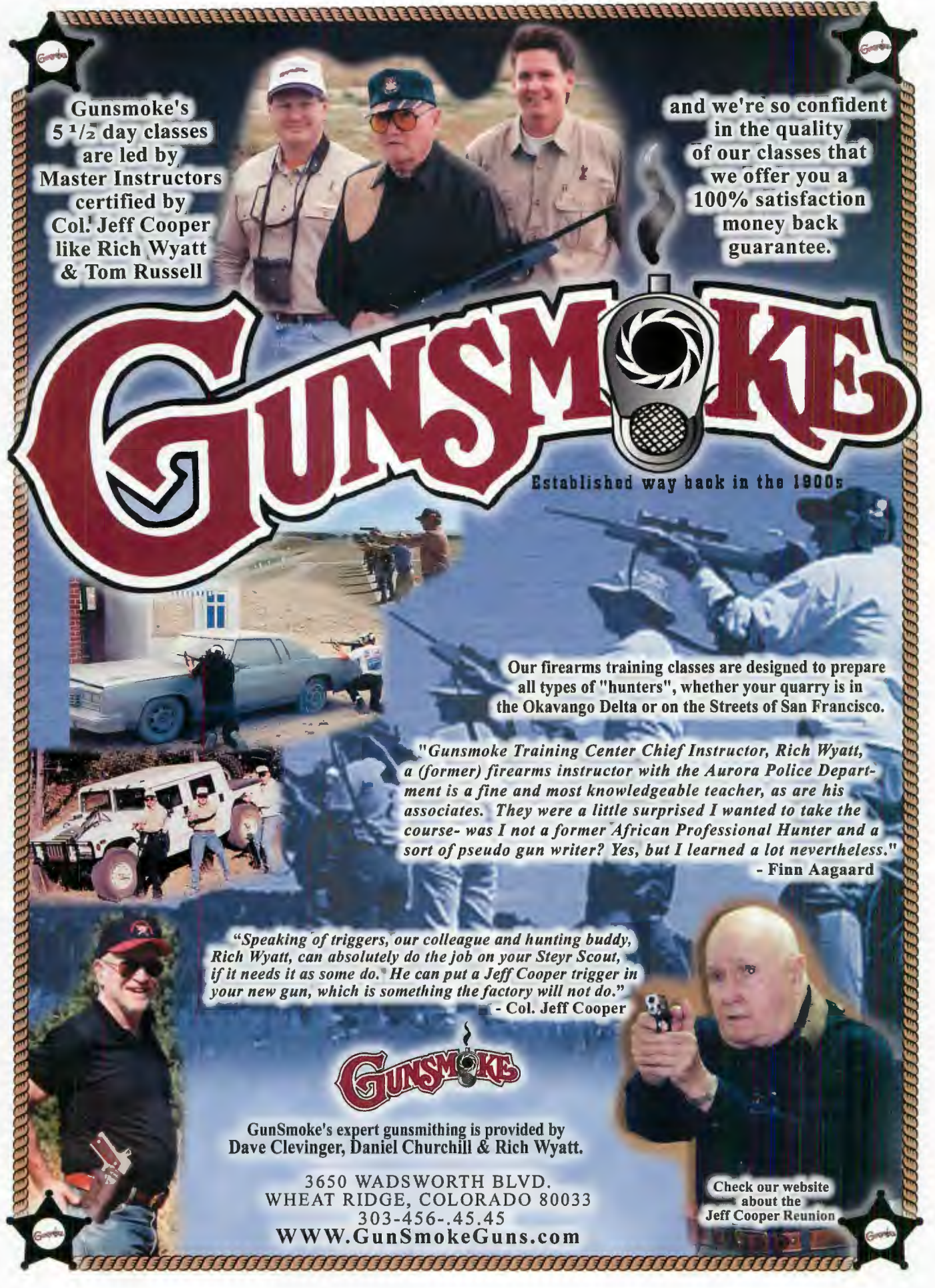


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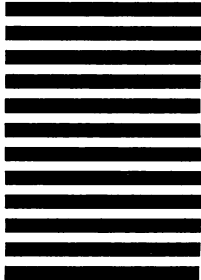
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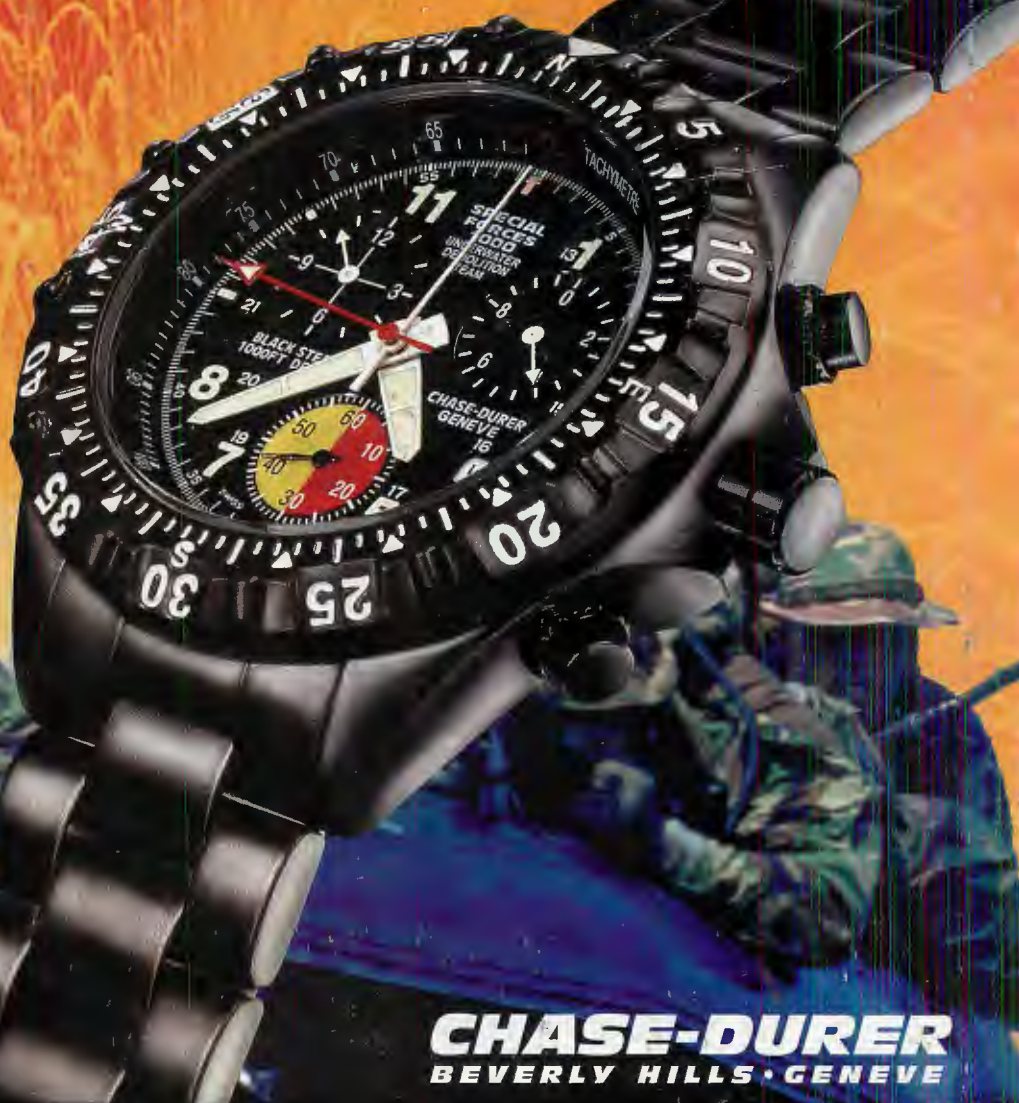
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